

Committee(s): Dispensations Sub Panel	Dated: 14 June 2022
Subject: Request for a Dispensation under the Corporation's approved Dispensations Policy	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	4, 9,
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	Y/N N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: John Barradell, Town Clerk	For Decision
Report author: Gemma Stokley, Principal Governance and Member Services Manager	

Summary

This report set out details of four Members who have requested a dispensation until the Ward elections in 2025 as detailed below and in the dispensation application forms appended.

Recommendation(s)

The Sub-Panel is asked to consider the four applications for a dispensation submitted as detailed below and make recommendations thereon to the Town Clerk.

Main Report

Background

1. Four Members have submitted applications for a dispensation. These applications are submitted in accordance with the current dispensations policy (Appendix 1). The statutory grounds for granting a dispensation under the Localism Act 2011, and the factors that your Sub-Panel should take into account when considering these applications are set out and explained in this policy.

Current Position

2. The full applications for dispensation are appended to this report as Appendices 2-5 and this covering report provides a summary of the dispensations sought.

Proposals

3. Newly elected Common Councillor **Deborah Oliver** represents the Ward of Aldersgate and has requested a dispensation to speak and vote on i) the development of London Wall West, ii) the development of the Barbican Arts Centre and iii) the development of the Barbican Podium. She makes this request as a leaseholder of a Barbican flat. Ms Oliver is currently a member of the Planning and Transportation Committee, the City of London Police Authority Board and the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee. Her request is for an indeterminate period of time and her application in full is attached at Appendix 2.
4. **Anett Rideg** is also a newly elected Common Councillor for the Ward of Aldersgate and has requested a dispensation to speak and vote on residential matters as a resident/leaseholder at the Barbican. Ms Rideg makes the request for her full term of office, until Ward elections in March 2025. Ms Rideg is currently a member of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee. Her application in full is attached at Appendix 3.
5. **Mark Bostock** is the Ward Deputy for Cripplegate. Mr Bostock is a Barbican leaseholder and seeks a dispensation to speak and vote and to extend the dispensation that he previously had in place for a further three years, until Ward elections in March 2025. The dispensation previously approved for Deputy Bostock permitted him 'to speak on general housing matters, as identified in the dispensations policy, and also car parking spaces and private storage spaces relating to the Barbican residential estate, insofar as those issues affect residents of the Barbican residential estate equally'. This expired at the Ward election in March 2022. Deputy Bostock currently sits on the Barbican Residential Committee, the Barbican Estate Residents Consultation Committee, the Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls, the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee and the Markets Board. His application can be found in full at Appendix 4.
6. **Gregory Lawrence** is a Common Councillor representing the Ward of Farringdon Without. He has requested a dispensation until the Ward elections in March 2025 to speak on all matters concerning the London Central Markets (i.e. Smithfield), other than:
 - i. those in which he has a disclosable pecuniary interest as a shareholder or director of any company which holds a tenancy in the market; and
 - ii. those which would affect only him personally or his business interests as opposed to the generality of the tenants within the market.
7. Gregory Lawrence has made this request on the following grounds:

"The Court of Common Council has requested that the decision maker "...adopt a position where Members would generally be granted a dispensation to speak (but not vote) on all matters concerning their Ward where they have an engaged disclosable pecuniary interest other than when

that disclosable pecuniary interest would be directly and materially impacted by a matter to be determined at a meeting of the Court or one of its committees or sub-committees, subject of course to the proper exercise of the statutory discretion in each case.”

I have been an elected Councillor for the Ward of Farringdon Without, which includes the London Central Markets, since 1994 and have a deep understanding of the Smithfield area having worked at the market for over 40 years. I also believe that local electors voted for me because they believed that I would speak for them on issues affecting their businesses.

My election to the Markets Board was debated at Court of Common Council on 21 April 2022 and voted on. Court overwhelmingly approved my appointment.

I believe that the caveat I have placed in my request for a dispensation, which has already been in place for several years - that I would not seek to speak on any matter which directly impacted me or my business interests specifically, as opposed to the generality of market tenants – will ensure that I am not placed in a position where there is a personal conflict of interests.

I consider that my application would fall under the category of “it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.”

8. Mr Lawrence is currently a member of the Corporate Services Committee, the Epping Forest and Commons Committee, the Finance Committee and Markets Board. His application is attached in full at Appendix 5.
9. Whilst the Town Clerk is able to determine dispensations in respect of requests to:
 - speak and vote on the setting of Council Tax
 - speak as a member of the public on planning applications
 - speak as a member of the public on licensing applications
 - speak on general housing matters

The four requests now submitted fall outside of these parameters and must therefore be considered by this Sub Panel in accordance with the existing policy on the granting of dispensations, with recommendations thereon made to the Town Clerk.

Appendices

Appendix One – Dispensations Policy and Guidance

Appendix Two – Application – Deborah Oliver

Appendix Three – Application – Anett Rideg

Appendix Four – Application – Deputy Mark Bostock

Appendix Five – Application – Gregory Lawrence

Gemma Stokley

Town Clerk's Department
E: gemma.stokley@cityoflondon.gov.uk