

Ordinance 29 The Visitor

Approving Body: Council

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Policy owner: University Secretary

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ORDINANCE 29

THE VISITOR

1. Appointment of the Visitor

1. Article X of the Charter of Aberystwyth University states “There shall be a Visitor of the University, who shall be appointed by the Privy Council, on the nomination of the Council, from those who hold or who have held high judicial office.”
2. Individuals shall be recommended for appointment to adjudicate on individual petitions.

2. Role and jurisdiction of the Visitor

1. The role of the Visitor is to adjudicate on petitions from members of the University’s academic staff, as defined in Statute 1. The Visitor’s jurisdiction is limited to adjudicating on petitions from such members of staff on the interpretation and application of the institution’s Charter, Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations and Policies, provided the point at issue is not an employment dispute. The Visitor is normally concerned with such matters as procedural propriety, fairness, prejudice and irregularity and he or she will only intervene if he or she considers that there is a risk of impropriety by the University either in terms of failing to observe its own rules and/ or procedures, or although having followed proper procedures, it has reached a decision that no reasonable body could have arrived at.
2. The Visitor does not have jurisdiction to consider any complaints made by members of non-academic staff.
3. The Visitor does not have jurisdiction to consider any complaints made by students or former students or complaints in respect of an application for admission to the University.

3 Procedure for a Petition to the Visitor

1. The Visitor will not normally be prepared to consider a petition unless the individual has made use of all channels of review within the University as provided by the Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations and Policies and the individual has been informed that a final decision has been taken by the University or there is evidence that the University is unreasonably delaying or appears to be behaving unreasonably.
2. Any member of academic staff of the University who wishes to petition the Visitor should submit their case in writing to the University Secretary, as Clerk to the Council (see 3.3), who will then take steps to invoke the appointment of a Visitor.
3. The Visitor shall decide whether or not there is a prima facie case to answer by the University and if so, will send the petition to the institution for its response. The individual shall have an opportunity to comment in writing on the institution’s response. Cases are normally determined by the Visitor on the basis of the papers submitted.
4. Petitions should be addressed to the Visitor via the University Secretary, Visualisation Centre, Penglais Campus, Aberystwyth University, SY23 3BF.