

Council

27 February 2020



Title	Application of the six months' rule to Councillor M. Madams
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report Author	Karen Limmer, Interim Monitoring Officer
Recommendation	That the Council approves Councillor Madams' absence from attendance at meetings from 25 October 2019 until the Annual Meeting of the Council on 21 May 2020.

1. The six month's rule

1.1 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states:

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3) below, if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of the period, cease to be a member of that authority.
- (2) Attendance as a member at a meeting of any committee or subcommittee of the authority, or at a meeting of any joint committee, joint board or other body by whom for the time being any functions of the authority are being discharged, or who were appointed to advise the authority on any matter relating to the discharge of their functions, and attendance as representative of the authority at a meeting of any body of persons shall be deemed to be attendance at a meeting of the authority.
- (3) [Not applicable as it relates to service in the armed forces]

2. Attendance by Councillor Madams

- 2.1 Councillor M. Madams' last attendance at any meeting as defined in Section 85 (2), was at the Council meeting on 24 October 2019. She has been suffering ill health which has prevented her from attending any meeting since that date.
- 2.2 Under the six-months' rule, she will cease to be a member of the authority if she does not attend any meeting before 24 April 2020, unless the Council approves the reason for her absence.
- 2.3 I understand from Councillor Madams that her recovery will take a further one to two months.