

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 12, Councillor Fitzpatrick will move the following motion:

At the Annual Council of May 2021, Councillor Richards brought forward a motion to allow Special Responsibility Allowances to be awarded to a second opposition groups at SDDC. A late amendment to his own proposal saw a clause being added that only groups registered as political parties at the Electoral Commission would be liable for such SRA's.

When this motion came before full council in November 2021 for ratification, the South Derbyshire Independent Group stated clearly that the proposal had introduced a clear inequality to the Council, that being that Independent Councillors who wished to form an opposition group at SDDC were to be treated differently to those Councillors who may belong to a political party recognised by the Electoral Commission. To our group this was a clear case of "all Councillors are equal, but some are more equal than others." Despite our arguments that ratification was passed and became part of the SDDC Rules.

Having never asked for this rule change and stating before full council that if SRA's were offered to our members under the rule change that they would rescind or donate such payments to charity, our Group cannot stand by and allow a clear inequality to exist at the heart of this council.

Whatever the best intentions of Councillor Richards motion were, in our opinion those intentions have been betrayed by the introduction of inequality into our Council and it is for that reason only that our Group are bringing this vote of no confidence in his leadership of this council.