

Appendices: 0



STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Title	STATISTICS – CODE OF CONDUCT ARRANGEMENTS COMPLAINTS
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Committee Meeting Date:	19 March 2018
Policy Document:	No
Directorate:	Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to report on the statistics regarding the number of complaints received, and dealt with, in respect of the Code of Conduct Arrangements for the Committee for its information.
- 1.2 At its meeting of 18 December 2017, the Standards Committee requested that statistical information is presented to each meeting of the Committee; with updates on the live complaints, new complaints and complaints that have been actioned and closed since the last meeting.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the statistics in relation to the number of complaints received, and dealt with, in respect of the Code of Conduct Arrangements.
- 2.2 That statistical data in relation the number of complaints received, and dealt with, in respect of the Code of Conduct Arrangements is presented to each meeting of the Committee.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background and Issues

- 3.1.1 It was resolved at the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 17 July 2017 that information regarding the number of complaints received, and dealt with, in respect of the Code of Conduct Arrangements for the Committee for its information at its October meeting.

- 3.1.2 Statistical data in relation to the number of complaints received and dealt with in respect of the Code of Conduct Arrangements was received by the Standards Committee at its meeting in October 2017.
- 3.1.3 The Committee requested that this data is elaborated upon to include further statistics regarding the complaints, such as the time taken to resolve the complaints and the outcomes of each complaint.
- 3.1.4 Further information was provided to the Standards Committee at its December 2017 meeting.
- 3.1.5 Data has been provided regarding complaints that are still live, have been closed since the December 2017 meeting and details of complaints received since the December 2017 meeting/

2016/2017

Complaints against a Parish Councillor

(a)

The complaint was received on 23 January 2017 and is currently the subject of an investigation. The file was closed on 31 January 2018.

The determination of the initial assessment of the complaint was that the complaint should be referred to investigation. An investigator was appointed. The investigator resolved that there had been no breach of the Code of one Parish Councillors, but there had been a technical breach by one Parish Councillor. The Monitoring Officer and Independent Person in considering the Investigator's report, concluded that the complaint should be dealt with by alternative resolution. The Parish Councillor has been asked to apologise to the complainant.

(b)

The complaint was received on 23 March 2017 and the file is still open.

The determination of the initial assessment of the complaint was that the complaint would be referred to an investigation. The investigation has taken place and the Investigator's final report is awaited.

Complaint against a Borough Councillor

2017/2018

Borough Councillor

(i)

The complaint was received on 25 March 2017. The file is still open.

The determination of the initial assessment of the complaint was that the complaint is held in abeyance pending the outcome of a separate investigation.

(ii)

The complaint was received on 13 September 2017. The file was closed on 20 December 2017.

The determination of the initial assessment of the complaint was that the complaint would be referred to an investigation. An Investigator has been appointed. The Investigator determined that the complaint should be dealt with by alternative resolution. The subject Member provided a written apology to the complainant.

(iii)

The complaint was received on 17 November 2017. The file was closed on 19 December 2017.

The initial assessment was held and the determination of this was that the complaint should be dealt with by alternative resolution. The subject Member provided a written apology to the complainant.

3.2 Choices

3.2.1 Members are asked to note the information provided.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 This report does not have any direct policy implications.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 This report does not have any direct resource implications.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 Complaints received are in accordance with the Arrangements for dealing with allegations of breaches of the Northampton Borough Council Members' Code of Conduct and of Codes of Conduct adopted by Parish Councils

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 Not applicable.

4.6 Other Implications

4.6.1 None.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Complaints received in respect of the Arrangements for dealing with allegations of breaches of the Northampton Borough Council Members' Code of Conduct and of Codes of Conduct adopted by Parish Councils

Francis Fernandes
Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer