

Standards Committee

AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Report Title	Monitoring Report
Date of Meeting:	14 th June 2010
Directorate:	Borough Solicitor & Monitoring Officer
Ward(s)	All

1. Summary

This report informs members about the statistical analysis of the data supplied to Standards for England by the Monitoring Officer relating to the complaints made to Standards Committee about a Member. Data is submitted to Standards for England through quarterly and annual returns. The quarterly return relates to case activity and the profile of Standards Committees. The annual return relates to Standards Committees' activities and the Committee's arrangements for supporting ethical governance.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the report below.

3. Report Background

3.1 Complaints about Councillors

During 2009/10 the Northampton Borough Council Standards Committee determined complaints about Councillors as follows:

- Number of complainants = 16
- Number of complaints made = 13
- Number of assessment hearings = 5
- Number of review hearings = 0
- Number of reviews held on behalf of another authority = 0
- Number of Councillors complained about in total within the complaints = 11
- Multiple complaints = 0

3.2 Outcomes

- No further action = 4
- No reviews were requested.
- Referred to the Monitoring Officer for other action = 1
- Referred to Standards for England for investigation = 0

We are awaiting statistical evidence from Standards for England regarding the average number of complaints received by Borough Councils per quarter during 2009/10 on a “cases per Council” calculation. Standards for England confirmed their statistical analysis of this data would not be available until after the election. This information is still not available. When available this information will tell us whether during the most recent twelve month period of local assessment Northampton Borough Council Standards Committee received more or less than the average number of complaints.

3.3 Complaints Handling

A total of 8 complaints have been registered between 1 April 2009 to 30 April 2010 (A 13 month period has been used to make the data as up to date as possible).

Of these 8 cases, the Monitoring Officer met with the complainant in one case to discuss the complaint and the best way to structure it. The complainant has with drawn the submitted complaint and is expected to be reissuing a reconstituted complaint shortly.

The statistics also include one case, which was an appeal by the subject member against sanction made by a Hearing sub-Committee of the Committee in respect of complaints made by two complainants together making up two separate complaints. The appeal was rejected by the Adjudication Panel (S for E) towards the end of 2009 after it had considered the papers submitted by the subject member in support of his appeal request.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Resources and Risk

None, other than appear in this report

4.2 Legal

None, other than appear in this report

4.3 Other Implications

None, other than appear in this report

5. Background Papers

Quarterly and Annual Return and associated documents

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