



## Standards Committee Report

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**Report of:** The Monitoring Officer/Interim Director of Legal and Governance

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**Date:** 22 January 2015

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**Subject:** Update on Standards Complaints

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**Author of Report:** Dave Ross, Democratic Services

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**Summary:**

The report provides information on the complaints considered under the Procedure for Dealing with Standards complaints in 2014/15.

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**Recommendations:**

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

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**Background Papers:**

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**Category of Report:** OPEN

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## Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

<b>Financial Implications</b>
NO Cleared by:
<b>Legal Implications</b>
/NO Cleared by:
<b>Equality of Opportunity Implications</b>
NO Cleared by:
<b>Tackling Health Inequalities Implications</b>
NO
<b>Human rights Implications</b>
NO:
<b>Environmental and Sustainability implications</b>
NO
<b>Economic impact</b>
NO
<b>Community safety implications</b>
NO
<b>Human resources implications</b>
NO
<b>Property implications</b>
NO
<b>Area(s) affected</b>
Not applicable
<b>Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader</b>
Councillor Ben Curran
<b>Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?</b>
NO
<b>Press release</b>
No

## UPDATE ON STANDARDS COMPLAINTS

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The report provides information on the complaints considered under the Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints during 2014/15.
- 1.2 The Procedure was adopted by the Council in July 2012 to meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 to promote high standards of Member Conduct, adopt a Code of Conduct and introduce a process for investigating complaints. The Council also appointed three Independent Persons to assist the Monitoring Officer and Standards Committee in dealing with complaints.
- 1.3 The Committee reviewed the Procedure and Code of Conduct at its meeting on 24 July 2013 and proposed no changes. The Procedure and Code of Conduct are attached as appendices A and B.
- 1.4 There is a separate report on the agenda for this meeting proposing a revised Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints.

### 2.0 SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS

- 2.1 The Monitoring Officer considers complaints relating to potential breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct in consultation with one of the three Independent Persons.
- 2.2 13 complaints were considered during the year which included two from 2013. Eight have been concluded and 3 are being investigated. The outcome and status of all the complaints is set out below:-

Case Reference	Complainant	Council	Status/Outcome
2013.13	Member of the public	Sheffield	Not referred for investigation
2013.18	Community organisation	Sheffield	Not referred for investigation
2014.01	Community organisation	Sheffield	Referred for Investigation
2014.02	Member of the public	Sheffield	Further information not received (superseded by 2014.09)
2014.03	Community organisation	Sheffield	Referred for Investigation
2014.04	Member of the public	Sheffield	Not a Standards matter
2014.05	Councillor	Stocksbridge	Apology offered
2014.06	Councillor	Stocksbridge	Did not represent a breach
2014.07	Member of the	Sheffield	Written complaint not received

	public		
2014.08	Community organisation	Sheffield	Pending
2014.09	Member of the public	Sheffield	Pending
2014.10	Member of the public	Sheffield	Awaiting further information
2014.11	Trade Union	Sheffield	Referred for Investigation

### **3.0 LESSONS LEARNED**

3.1 The learning from dealing with the complaints during the year has been incorporated into the proposed revised Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints.

### **4.0 RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

**Monitoring Officer/Interim Director of Legal and Governance**