

WIRRAL COUNCIL

STANDARDS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

26 November 2018

SUBJECT:	SUMMARY OF STANDARDS COMPLAINTS
REPORT OF:	MONITORING OFFICER

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of standards complaints received under the Members' Code of Conduct and Protocol for dealing with complaints against Members between 31 October 2018 and 31 October 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the summary of standards complaints set out at Appendix 1 to this report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

1.1 To provide the Committee with an opportunity to consider the handling and progress of standards complaints.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 The process for the administration of standards complaints is undertaken in accordance with the revised Protocol for dealing with complaints against Members which was approved by the Committee in February 2019.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council is required to deal with complaints made against Members under its approved Ethical Framework.

3.2 In order to assist with the effective administration of standards complaints, the Committee, as part of its monitoring role, is invited to consider the nature and handling of complaints received pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct.

3.3 Appendix 1 sets out a summary of the complaints received and their status.

3.4 The Ethical Framework requires complaints to be dealt with confidentiality and therefore it is not possible to provide extensive details in respect of each complaint.

3.5 Between 31 October 2018 and 31 October 2019 a total of 15 complaints in respect of the conduct of 9 Members have been received. The complaints were received from 13 complainants who were all members of the public. One complainant complained about 4 Members. One incident complained of involved 2 Members and the same complainant made a complaint against a third Member which was connected.

Period	Complainant		Ongoing	Referred for Investigation	Outcome		
	Member	Public			Upheld	other outcome	Not Upheld
31/10/2018 to 31/10/19	0	13	1	1	0	4	4

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report save that where an external investigator is appointed, additional costs will be incurred. Such costs

will vary depending upon the nature of the complaint and the time taken to undertake and complete the investigation.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Under the Localism Act 2011 the Council is required to have a Code of Conduct relating to the conduct of Members and arrangements in place to deal with any complaints received in respect of Members conduct.
- 5.2 This report provides an opportunity for the Committee to monitor the progress of complaints.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no such issues arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The administration of standards complaints should be dealt with as efficiently as possible to ensure matters are concluded quickly and closure of issues secured for both complaint and the subject member(s) involved.

8.0 ENAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 There are no such issues arising.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no specific discrimination issues arising from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no specific environmental and climate issues arising from this report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Summary of Standards Complaints

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

APPENDIX 1

Summary of complaints 31.10.18 – 31.10.19

No	Date received	Nature of Complaint	Date Concluded
1.	06.11.18	Failed to treat others with respect	21.12.18 No breach
2.	02.12.18	Failed to treat others with respect	25.01.19 Local resolution - apology
3.	12.02.19	Inconsistent duty conduct	22.03.19 No breach
4.	31.03.19	Failed to treat others with respect	16.05.19 No breach
5.	31.03.19	Failed to treat others with respect	16.05.19 No breach
6.	04.04.19	Inconsistent duty conduct	15.05.19 Discontinued as Cllr not re-elected
7.	12.04.19	Inconsistent duty conduct	17.05.19 Discontinued as Cllr not re-elected
8.	17.07.19	Failed to treat others with respect	Not yet concluded
9.	11.10.19	Inconsistent duty conduct	15.10.19 Complaint withdrawn