

Item 4

REPORT TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE

5TH FEBRUARY 2009

REPORT OF SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL AND MONITORING OFFICER

LOCAL ASSESSMENT OF COMPLAINTS - UPDATE

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This Report is to give members an update on complaints that have been received since local assessment came into force on the 8th May 2008, and covers the period from 8th May - 31st December 2008.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Standards Committee be appraised of the report.

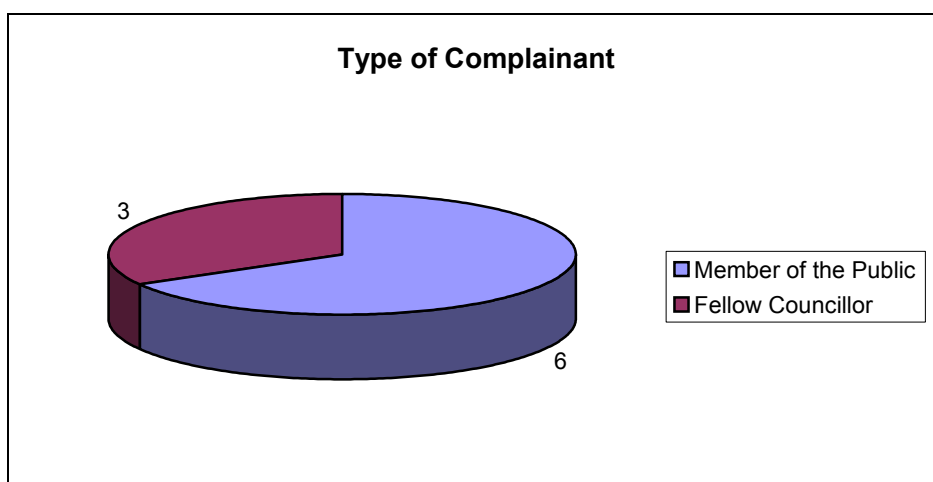
3. DETAIL

3.1 To date, the Monitoring Officer has received thirteen requests for complaint forms, of which nine forms have been returned for consideration by the Assessment Sub-Committee. Some of the forms have included a complaint against more than one member. All of these complaints have been determined by an Assessment Sub-Committee. A request for a review of a decision had also been made and this had been referred to a Review Sub-Committee for re-assessment.

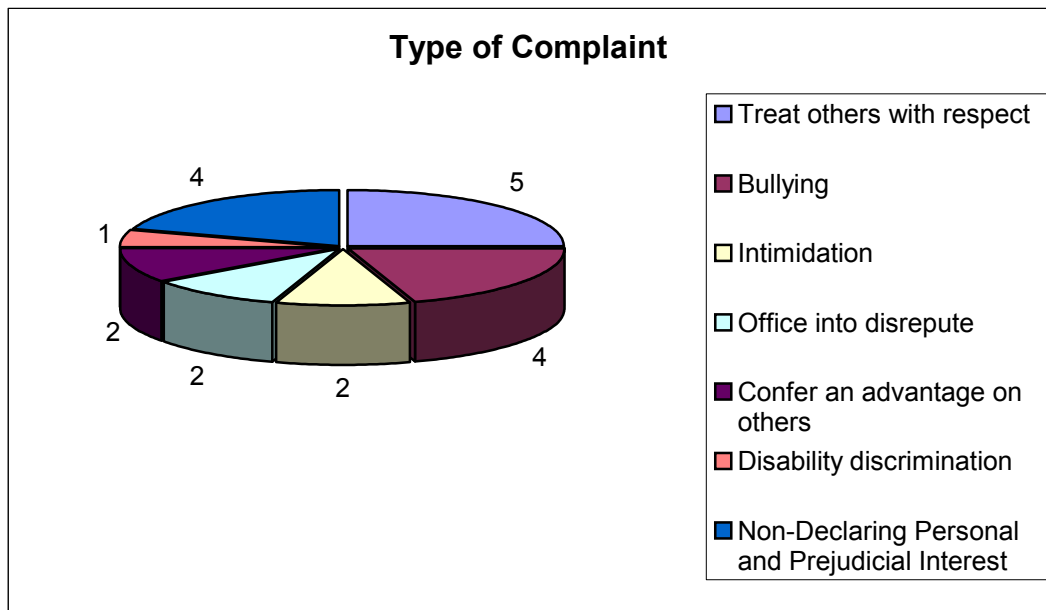
3.2 Some of the complaints have included multiple allegations against a member.

3.3 For Members' information, below there is a summary of the complaints received:

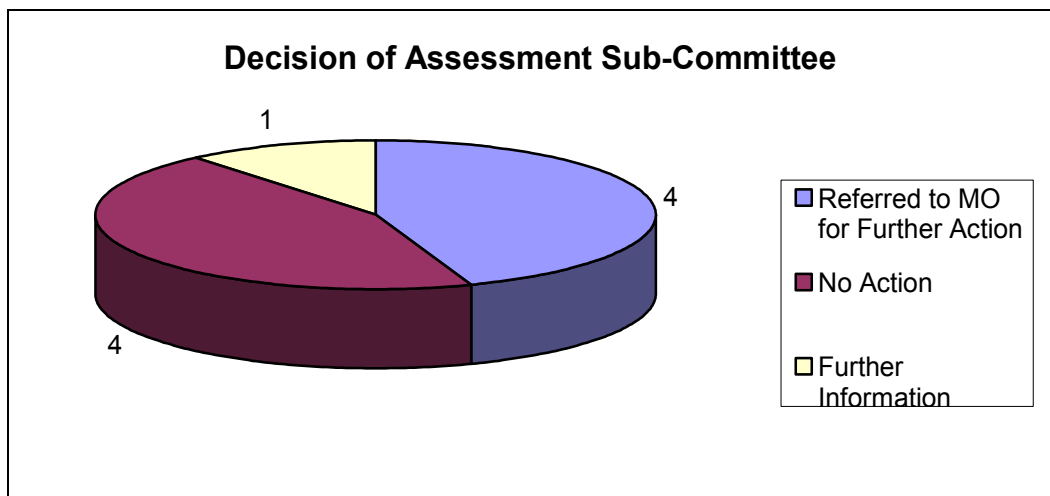
3.4 Type of Complainant



3.5 Type of Complaint



3.6 Decision of Assessment Sub-Committee



3.7 From the four decisions of “No Action”, one request for a review had been received and this had been considered at a Review Sub-Committee held on the 23rd October 2008, which had upheld the original decision of the Assessment Sub-Committee.

3.8 Of the four decisions to refer to Monitoring Officer for further action two involved one to one meetings between the member and the Deputy Monitoring Officer, to give advice and guidance on the Members’ Code of Conduct, and these had taken place on the 17th September 2008. A conciliation meeting had also been held on the 8th January 2009 between the Monitoring Officer and another two members, where it had been agreed to hold further conciliation meetings to try and resolve outstanding issues.

3.9 A decision for “Further Information” was made in relation to one complaint and, to date, no further information has been forthcoming.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 No specific financial implications have been identified.

5. CONSULTATIONS

5.1 The Council’s Standards Committee to be appraised of this Report.

6. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 All material considerations have been taken into account in the contents of this report. In particular, risks may arise unless members of the Council are fully appraised on standards matters.

7. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None apply.

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

8.1 None apply.

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Wards: N/A

Key Decision Validation: N/A

Background Papers
Complaint Forms

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Council’s Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Council’s S.151 Officer or his representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council’s Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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