

Appendix 2: Code of Conduct Complaints Activity

8 September 2023 – 23 November 2023

Ref	Date Received	Council	Complainant type	Summary of Allegation(s)	Breach type	Decision Notice	Outcome/Status
COM 393 COM 397	5-April-22 19-April-22	Town	Officer Member	That the Subject Member has, in emails and on social media, been disrespectful towards fellow Councillors and an Officer of the Council.	- Respect - Bullying - Failing to follow procedure / policy (member officer protocol)	6-June-22	Standards Committee Hearing Panel Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Censure - Completed • Training on Member/ Officer relations – Arrangements in place
FS-Case-479253074	18-Jan-23	Parish	Member	Members have given false statements during a Parish Council Meeting. Members have approved a contract on behalf of a landowner.	- All aspects of the Code of Conduct	25-Oct-23	Dealt with under a collective decision notice 13 complaints in total. Complaints; FS-Case-479253074, FS-Case-479484178, FS-Case-479665269, FS-Case-480006325, FS-Case-480451746, FS-Case-482384231, COM 414, FS-Case-511652546 and FS-Case-527404494 Referred for Investigation. FS-Case-500269838, FS-Case-500989086, FS-Case-501015260 and FS-Case-511798693 No Further Action.
FS-Case-479484178	18-Jan-23	Parish	Member				
FS-Case-480006325	18-Jan-23	Parish	Member				
FS-Case-479665269	18-Jan-23	Parish	Public				
FS-Case-480451746	19-Jan-23	Parish	Public				
FS-Case-482384231	30-Jan-23	Parish	Member				

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COM 414	8-Feb-23	Parish	Member				
FS-Case-500269838	23-Mar-23	Parish	Member				
FS-Case-500989086	27-Mar-23	Parish	Member				
FS-Case-501015260	27-Mar-23	Parish	Member				
FS-Case-527404494	28-Jun-23	Parish	Public				
FS-Case-511652546	29-Apr-23	Parish	Member				
FS-Case-511798693	30-Apr-23	Parish	Member				
COM 415	15-Mar-23	Parish	Officer	Accusations of bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect - Bullying and Harassment - Value colleagues 		Ongoing.

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FS-Case-505549532	05-April-23	County	Officer	The complaint raises concern about the subject member's alleged ill treatment of staff and bullying and harassment of Council Officers. The complaint also details concerns about your alleged use of social media and the Press to unfairly criticise officers and make inaccurate and inflammatory statements about the Council, Officers of the Council and the Council's Area Action Partnerships. Additionally, the complaint includes the alleged failure to adhere to the Member-Officer Relations Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Failure to act in accordance with Member-Officer Relations Protocol - Respect - Bullying 		Referred for Investigation.
FS-Case-511445732	28-Apr-23	County	Officer	The complaint relates to comments made by the two Subject Members in an Article published in the Northern Echo. The Subject Members criticised the Council and Council Officers, with the article stating the Subject Members "have launched a scathing attack on non-elected officers at Durham County Council".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act in accordance with Member Officer Relations Protocol - Respect - Acting in accordance with legal obligations 	12-Oct-23	<p>Linked to FS-Case-505549532.</p> <p>One Member Referred for Investigation and No Further Action in respect of the other Member.</p>
COM 418	24-Apr-23	County	Public	The complaint alleges that the subject member has been using his position as a Councillor to interfere with a member of the public's business. The subject member is being accused of using his position as a Councillor to bully and harass a member of the public and their partner. The Subject Member video called the member of the public to intimidate her into speaking to her husband about an ongoing conflict between him and the subject member.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect - Acting in accordance with legal obligations - Bullying and Harassment - Seeking to confer an advantage/disadvantage. 	27-June-23	<p>Standards Committee Hearing Panel</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Censure - Completed • Written apology – Member yet to issue. • Code of Conduct training into the role and remit of a Parish & Town Councillor – Awaiting Member response.

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COM 420	28-Apr-23	Town	Officer	Accusations of bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bullying - Respect - Conferring an advantage or disadvantage 	20-Oct-23	Completed – Local Resolution Mediation - to be arranged.
FS-Case-514139036	09-May-23	County	Member	The Subject Member has made comments of a discriminatory nature on a Facebook group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect - Bringing the Role of Member or Local Authority into disrepute. - Acting in accordance with legal obligations 	25-May-23	Standards Committee Hearing Panel. Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Censure - Completed • Training on Member/ Officer relations – Arrangements in place
COM 421	10-May-23	Parish	Clerk on behalf of the PC	The Subject Member has disclosed a potential data breach as a non-member of the Parish Council manages his email account for him.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disclosing Confidential Information - Bullying and harassment - Respect 		Ongoing
COM 422	22-May-23	Parish	Member	The Subject Member is alleged to have been spreading malicious rumours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect - Value Colleagues and staff - Bullying and Harassment - Bringing the role of Member into disrepute 		Ongoing
FS-Case-529322214	05-Jul-23	County	Public	The Subject Member has made disrespectful comments aimed towards another Member on social media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect - Value colleagues - Not to bring the role of the member/authority into disrepute 		Ongoing.

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FS-Case-532722081	19-Jul-23	County	Public	<p>The Subject Members are allegedly failing to engage with the Complainant regarding a public safety issue within a proposal for the Licensing Committee.</p> <p>The complainant alleges that the Subject Members are avoiding meeting with him and are now ignoring his correspondence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accountability - Listening to the interests of all parties 	21-Sept-23	Completed – No Further Action
FS-Case-532826751	19-Jul-23	County	Member	The Subject Member has emailed a photo of the complainant to all County Council Members during a Full Council Meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Valuing colleagues and staff - Respect 	25-Sept-23	Completed - No Further Action
FS-Case-533097871	19-Jul-23	Parish	Public	The Subject Member has allegedly shared emails with a former Parish Council after her resignation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act in accordance with legal obligations - Not disclose information given to them in confidence 	12-Oct-23	Completed - No Further Action
Fs-Case-533236801	20-Jul-23	Parish	Public	<p>The Subject member has allegedly used her position as a Councillor to have DCC Officer visit the Complainant's address about a noise complaint.</p> <p>Additionally, the Subject Member has allegedly made a post on Facebook accusing the complainant's son of littering, which led to many comments about her son being made.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fairness and impartiality - objectivity - act in accordance with Council Procedures 	21-Sept-23	Completed – No Further Action
COM 423	01-Aug-23	Parish	Member	This complaint is linked to COM 422 as the Subject Member is alleged to have been spreading malicious rumours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect - Value Colleagues and staff - Bullying and Harassment 		Ongoing

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bringing the role of Member into disrepute 		
COM 424	02-Aug-2023	County	Public	The Subject Member is accused of announcing confidential information during a Council meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Behave in accordance with all legal obligations. - Not disclose information given to them in confidence 		Completed - Not progressed – complaint of Council as opposed to CoCC.
COM 425	07-Aug-23	Parish	Public	The Subject Members are accused of speaking disrespectfully towards other Members of the Parish Council and the Complainant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Value Colleagues and staff - Respect - Bullying and Harassment 		Ongoing
FS-Case-539664142	16-Aug-23	County	Officer	The Subject Member is accused of distributing information in an attempt to discredit the Complainant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accountable for decisions and cooperate when scrutinised - Behave in accordance with legal obligations - Value Colleagues and staff - Respect - Not disclose information given to them in confidence - Not to bring the role of the member/authority into disrepute 		Ongoing
FS-Case-544614411	05-Sep-23	Town	Public	The Subject Members are alleged to have accepted a gift contrary to the Gifts and Hospitality Policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not allowing pressures to deter them from pursuing the interests of the Council 	7-Nov-23	Local Resolution Training – Training agreed to be arranged once a review of the Gifts and Hospitality Policy is completed.

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exercise independent judgment and not compromise their position - Behave in accordance with all legal obligations, alongside any requirements contained within the Council's policies 		
FS-Case-546254817	11-Sep-23	County	Officer	The Subject Member is alleged to have failed to treat Officers with respect.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act in accordance with legal obligations - Value Colleagues and staff - Respect - Bullying and Harassment - Not to bring the role of the member/authority into disrepute 		Ongoing
FS-Case-549020329	22-Sep-23	County	Public	The Subject Member is alleged to have made defamatory comments about the Complainant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act in accordance with legal obligations - Respect 	5-Oct-23	Completed – No Further Action
FS-Case-551594852	03-Oct-23	Town	Public	The Subject Member is accused of not being independent.			Completed – Not progressed due to a failure to provide further info upon request.

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FS-Case-556862472	24-Oct-23	Parish	Public	The Subject Member is alleged to have spoken to the Complainant disrespectfully at a site meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deal with representations or enquiries fairly, appropriately and impartially - Listen to the interests of all parties - Respect 		Ongoing
FS-Case-561159527	10-Nov-23	County	Member	The Subject Member is alleged to have brought the reputation of the Council into disrepute by spreading false information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Value colleagues and staff - Not to bring the role of the member/authority into disrepute - To hold the local authority and fellow Members to account 		Ongoing
FS-Case-562068764	15-Nov-23	County	Public	The complaint concerned a Member of a different authority.	N/A		Completed - Rejected and signposted to another authority.
FS-Case-562390041	15-Nov-23	Parish	Public	The complainant alleges that the Subject Member disclosed personal information about them at a Parish Council meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not disclose information given to them in confidence. 		Ongoing

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FS-Case-562494788	16-Nov-23	Parish	Member	The complainant alleges that the Subject Member has breached the respect provision of the Code of Conduct following a post on social media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Value colleagues and staff - Respect 		Ongoing
FS-Case-562593888	16-Nov-23	Parish	Officer	The complainant alleges that the Subject Members have failed to work constructively with them and have harassed them by acting in an intimidating way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Value colleagues and staff - Respect 		Ongoing
FS-Case-563802819	21-Nov-23	Town	Public	The Subject Member is accused of making defamatory statements on social media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect 		Ongoing.