

Report to Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee

5 March 2024

Subject:	Complaints and Allegations Update
Director:	Assistant Director Legal and Assurance and Monitoring Officer – Mike Jones
Contact Officer:	Mike Jones Mike_jones1@sandwell.gov.uk







1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the updated position on complaints received under the Councillor code of conduct be received.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The report provides an update on the activity of the Council's Monitoring Officer in relation to complaints received under the Councillor Code of Conduct arrangements.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

		The Council's ethical governance framework and arrangements support the Council toward achieving its strategic objectives and ambition.
		
		



4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Committee has oversight of the Council's ethical governance framework and arrangements for dealing with complaints received under the Code of Conduct in relation to elected Members.
- 4.2 The table at Appendix A provides an update position on complaints received under the code of conduct.

5 Implications

Resources:	The Council is required to ensure that sufficient resources are provided to the Monitoring Officer in order that they are able to exercise their statutory functions.
Legal and Governance:	The Local Government Act 2000 and Localism Act 2011 make provision for the arrangements for dealing with standards related matters.
Risk:	The Council must have in place, arrangements for dealing with matters relating to the conduct of elected members. These are regularly reviewed in line with the best practice recommendations of the Committee for Standards in Public Life
Equality:	There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.
Health and Wellbeing:	There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.
Social Value	There are no direct social value implications arising from this report.
Climate Change	There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.
Corporate Parenting	There are no corporate parenting implications arising from this report.

6. Appendices

Appendix A - Complaints Update



7. Background Papers

None.



Appendix A

Case Ref	Complainant	Code Provisions/ Ground for complaint	Date received and progress to date	Deadline Red: Amber: Green:	Outcome	Learning identified
1. MC210823	Member of the Public	It is alleged that the subject member has breached the code of conduct. Potential breaches of the members code of conduct 1.1,1.2, 2.3, 4.1.	Received on 21 st August 2023. Initial Assessment completed. Local Resolution agreed.	Green	Local Resolution agreed on 27 October 2023. Resolution to be implemented.	N/a
2. MC151223	Member of the public	It is alleged that the subject member has breached the code of conduct. Potential breaches of the members code of conduct 1.1,1.2, 5.1	Received on 15 th December 2023. Initial Assessment being completed.	Amber		
3. MC310124	Members of the public	It is alleged that the subject member has breached the code of conduct. Potential breaches of the members code of conduct 1.1, 5.1	Initial Assessment has been completed. IP has been consulted.	Green		
4. MC310124b	Councillor	Complaint against 2 Councillors. It is alleged that the subject members	Received on 31 st January 2024. Initial Assessment being completed	Amber		



Case Ref	Complainant	Code Provisions/ Ground for complaint	Date received and progress to date	Deadline Red: Amber: Green:	Outcome	Learning identified
		have breached the code of conduct. Potential breaches of the members code of conduct 1.1, 5.1				
5. MC010224	None – MO has initiated on own volition	It is alleged that the subject member has breached the code of conduct. Potential breaches of the members code of conduct 1.2, 4.1, 5.1	Initial Assessment has been completed. IP has been consulted.	Green		
6. MC090224	Members of the public	It is alleged that the subject member has breached the code of conduct. Potential breaches of the members code of conduct 1.1, 5.1	Received on 9 th February 2024. Initial Assessment being completed	Amber		

