

## Standards Committee

22 June 2022

<b>Title</b>	Update on Member Complaints
<b>Purpose of the report</b>	To note
<b>Report Author</b>	Petra Der Man, Monitoring Officer
<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	All Wards
<b>Exempt</b>	No
<b>Exemption Reason</b>	Not applicable
<b>Corporate Priority</b>	This item is not in the current list of Corporate Priorities.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Committee is asked to note the report.</b>
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	Not applicable

### 1. Summary of the report

- 1.1 This report seeks to update the Committee on those member complaints which have been dealt with since the last update provided in March 2022.

### 2. Key issues

- 2.1 The Council's Arrangements for dealing with complaints under the Member Code of Conduct requires that the Monitoring Officer report to the Committee on those complaints which:
- a. The Monitoring Officer has rejected
  - b. Have been referred to the Assessment or Hearing Panels
- 2.2 The following table summarises the number of new complaints that have been made about councillors since March 2022 that the Monitoring Officer has been dealing with:

	<b>Number submitted</b>	<b>Rejected</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Referred for investigation</b>	<b>'Live'</b>
<b>Complaints made by staff</b>	2	-	-	-	2
<b>Complaints by Councillors</b>	5	2	-	-	3
<b>Total</b>	7	2	-	-	5

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<sup>1</sup>Principles of the Arrangements para 4(e) and (f) and also paragraph 25

### **3. Complaints rejected by Monitoring Officer**

- 3.1 As part of the Arrangements, the Monitoring Officer has the power to strike out complaints which are vexatious, frivolous, or politically motivated.

*<sup>1</sup>The Monitoring Officer has power to reject complaints which are vexatious, frivolous or malicious or which are politically motivated or in some other way an abuse of process. Where the Monitoring Officer has taken a decision that a complaint falls into one of these categories, he will inform the complainant of his decision and the reasons for that decision. There is no appeal from this decision, but the Monitoring Officer will report all such decisions to the next meeting of the Standards Committee who are entitled to refer the matter for investigation if they feel that the Monitoring Officer has acted incorrectly.'*

- 3.2 An anonymised summary of the two complaints which the Monitoring Officer rejected is attached at Appendix 2.

### **4. Complaints referred to Hearing Panels**

- 4.1 Since the previous update two complaints have been considered by Hearing Panels.

- 4.2 An anonymised summary of the outcome of those Hearings and the remaining two complaints which are undergoing investigation is attached at Appendix 3.

### **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 The Committee is asked to note this report.

### **6. Contact**

- 6.1 Petra Der Man – pderman@spelthorne.gov.uk

**Background papers:** There are none.

#### **Appendices:**

**Appendix 1 – Report to Standards Committee March 2022**

**Appendix 2 – Complaints rejected by the Monitoring Officer**

**Appendix 3 – Complaints considered by Hearings Panels or under investigation**