

	
STANDARDS COMMITTEE	22 October 2010
Report of the Monitoring Officer	

Complaints and Pre-hearing Procedures

Summary

1. This report provides background on the time taken to process complaints received by the Committee

Assessment Decisions

2. Standards for England guidance suggests that assessment decisions should be made in an average of 20 working days from the date of the complaint.
3. The following table details actual performance on cases submitted since 2009:

Case reference	Date Submitted	Date of assessment	Working days
LX2725	21/01/09	04/03/09	30
LX2739	11/02/09	04/03/09	15
LX2752	18/03/09	08/04/09	15
LX2780	05/05/09	26/06/09	38
LX2797	17/06/09	28/08/09	52
LX2802	20/07/09	28/08/09	29
LX2813	01/09/09	13/10/09	30
LX2835	27/10/09	23/11/09	19
LX2847	27/10/09	7/12/09	29
LX2870	06/01/10	28/01/10	21
LX2884	16/3//10	30/4/10	10
LX2926	21/06/10	25/06/10	5

4. The average time for completion of the assessment process during this period has therefore been closer to 24 working days although for 2010 it stands at 12.

Investigations and Hearings

5. The Guidance suggests that most investigations should be completed within six months of the assessment decision. The one investigation that has been completed since 2009 resulted in a report being submitted five months after the assessment decision.
6. The Regulations governing the work of the Standards Committee require hearings to take place within three months of the receipt of the investigator's report. The one hearing that has taken place met this requirement.

Corporate Priorities

7. The Standards Committee's management of the local assessment framework contributes to its key role in maintaining high ethical standards. This in turn is an essential part of the 'Effective Organisation' strand of the Corporate Strategy. Effective ethical governance is a key aspect of corporate governance overall which is an important priority for the Council.

Recommendations

8. That the Standards Committee note the report.

Reason: The Committee has satisfied itself as to performance levels and in light of proposed changes to the standards regime no action is required.

Contact Details

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	Report Approved	√	Date 28/09/2010
Specialist Implications Officer(s) <i>None.</i>			
Wards Affected: <i>List wards or tick box to indicate all</i>			√

Background Papers:

All relevant background papers must be listed here.

Letter from Standards for England dates 1st June 2010