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| Joint Standards Committee | 4 September 2019 |
| Report of the Interim Monitoring Officer | |

Monitoring Report on Complaints Received

Summary

1. This report is to update the Committee on the position regarding ongoing complaints.

Background

2. The table below provides information about ongoing complaints and in particular the stage each one has now reached.

| Case Ref. | City or Parish | Date Received | Nature of Complaint | Status |
|-----------|----------------|---------------|--|--|
| 719 | Parish | 18/9/2018 | The complainant alleges breach of confidentiality and attempt to secure an advantage for an individual in relation to a recruitment process. | Investigation report received. MO and IPs agree with findings in the report. Meeting arranged with subject member to discuss findings and explore possible local resolution. The original meeting was rescheduled at the subject member's request due to family commitments and will take place on 3 September 2019. |

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| 720 | City | 26/2/2019 | The complainant alleges that the subject member's conduct was disrespectful. | The complaint was sent to the IPs in March 2019. A response from one of the IPs is awaited. MO has chased. The complainant has submitted further complaints in relation to this subject member and a number of other members (Ref 725 – 729) These have also been sent to the IPs for their consideration. In addition clarification has been sought from the complainant as to whether the complaints relating to this subject member (Ref 720 & 725) can be considered together. |
| 722 | City | 14/6/2019 | The complainant alleges that a comment by the subject member on social media was disrespectful. | The complaint was sent to the IPs on 24/6/2019. One response is outstanding the MO has chased. The MO and the IPs were of the view that the conduct was not covered by the Code of Conduct and no further action would be taken. The complainant and the subject member were advised of the outcome of the complaint on 19.8.19 |
| 723 | Parish (x2) | 24/6/2019 | The complainant alleges that the subject members have behaved in a manner that is disrespectful. | The complaint was sent to the IPs on 5/7/2019. This matter has been referred for investigation. The complainant and the subject members were informed on 19.8.19 |

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| 724 | City | 1/7/2019 | The complainant concerns the subject members conduct during the election. | The complaint was sent to the IPs on 5/7/2019. The MO and the IPs were of the view that the conduct did not constitute a breach of the Code of Conduct and no further action would be taken. The complainant and the subject member were advised of the outcome of the complaint on 19.8.19 |
| 725 | City | 13/8/19 | The complainant alleges that the subject member's conduct was disrespectful. | The complaint was sent to the IPs on 19/8/19. Responses have been received that require further consideration. In addition a response is awaited from the complainant. |
| 726 | City | 13/8/19 | The complainant alleges that the subject member failed to declare an interest and discriminated against the complainant. | The complaint was sent to the IPs on 19/8/19. One response remains outstanding. |
| 727 | City | 13/8/19 | The complainant alleges that the subject member disclosed information about the complainant to other members of council without the consent of the complainant. | The complaint was sent to the IPs on 19/8/19. One response remains outstanding. |
| 728 | City (x4) | 13/8/19 | The complainant alleges that the subject members discriminated against the complainant. | The complaint was sent to the IPs on 19/8/19. One response remains outstanding. |

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| 729 | City (x4) | 13/8/19 | The complainant alleges that the subject members discriminated against the complainant. | The complaint was sent to the IPs on 19/8/19. One response remains outstanding. |
| 730 | City (x2) | 19/8/19 | The complainant alleges that the subject members failed to respond to emails requesting support and advice in relation to a planning issue. | The complaint was sent to the IPs on 19/8/19. One response remains outstanding. |

3. Members will see that there are 2 complaints that are long running. A meeting has been arranged with the Subject Member in relation to Complaint Ref 719 to discuss the outcome of the investigation and to progress the matter to a conclusion. Complaint Ref 720 is now linked to Complaint Ref 725 and the Monitoring Officer is seeking to determine if these can be dealt with together. In addition the complainant in relation to Complaint Ref 720 & 725 has also submitted 4 further complaints in relation to 10 subject members. The Monitoring Officer is in discussions with the Independent Persons to determine the most appropriate way of dealing with these issue. The other new complaint will be progressed in accordance with the agreed procedure and further up dates will be brought to all future committee meetings.

Recommendations:

4. Members are recommended to:

Note the report.

Reason: To ensure that the Committee is aware of the current levels of activity and to is able to provide oversight of the complaints procedure.

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Annexes

None

Background Papers

None