

## Complaint Form

### 1. Your details

Title	Mr
First Name	Andrew
Last name	Dickinson
Address	York, North Yorkshire,
Daytime telephone number	
Evening telephone number	
Mobile telephone	
E-mail address	

*Your address and contact details will not usually be released unless necessary to deal with your complaint.*

*However, we will tell the following people that you have made this complaint:*

- *The Member you are complaining about*
- *The parish or town clerk (if applicable)*
- *The Independent Persons who advise the City Council on handling standards complaints*

*We will tell them your name and details of your complaint. If you have serious concerns about your name or details of your complaint being released please discuss those concerns with the Council's Monitoring Officer before submitting your complaint.*

### 2. Making your complaint

You should submit your complaint to the Council's Monitoring Officer by e-mail to [monitoringofficer@york.gov.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@york.gov.uk) or by post to:

Andrew Docherty  
 The Monitoring Officer  
 City of York Council  
 West Offices  
 Station Rise  
 York  
 YO1 6GA

3. Please provide the name and address of the Councillors who you believe have breached the code of conduct and the name of their Council:

Title	First name	Last name	Name of Council
Mr	John	Galvin	York City Council, Bishophthorpe Ward

4. Please explain in this section (or on separate sheets) what the Councillor has done that you believe breaches the Code of Conduct. If you are complaining about more than one Councillor you should clearly explain what each individual has done that you believe breaches the code of conduct.

I wish to make a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Councillor John Galvin at the planning committee meeting on the 7th April 2016 where the conversion of the Groves Chapel into a Sainsbury's convenience store was discussed.

Mr Galvin declared an interest at the beginning of the meeting as he is a Governor of York Hospital, the current owner of the Groves Chapel. Due to the obvious financial pressure the Hospital is under I believe that Mr Gavin's impartiality was compromised by his position on the board.

Indeed the code of conduct for NHS Governors, section A.5.b page 21 states that:-

*Governors must act in the best interests of the NHS foundation trust and should adhere to its values...*

Further, section A.5.e states that:-

*Governors should work closely with the board of directors and must be presented with, for consideration, the annual report and accounts and the annual plan at a general meeting.*

Mr Galvin would therefore be fully aware of the Hospital's dire finances and, as he is required to work

closely with the board, his judgment must clearly be biased in favour of the highest bidder. Indeed the state of the trust's finances was discussed during the committee meeting and the relevance of this questioned by some committee members.

Mr Galvin tried to inhibit discussing the negative impact of the scheme and seemed frustrated at Councillor Craghill's concerns. He seemed shocked when Councillor Craghill suggested it should be refused and stated that they would 'need to put a case together for refusal' over a fifteen minute break.

Other committee members stated that objectors were being sensationalist yet he failed to question the details of this and denied objectors any right of redress.

He stated that all points had been satisfactorily addressed despite five committee members voting against the scheme due to unacceptable harm to neighbours and significant opposition. Indeed his closing comments were that he 'had a duty to the developer!'

Throughout the meeting he tried to coerce people into voting in favour of the development without any additional conditions and reminded members in a stern tone that they would be '*going against officer's recommendations*' if they did not.

Ultimately Mr Galvin had the deciding vote due to committee members voting 5-5 and, without any hesitation, declared that it was approved. His lack of interest from the outset indicted that he was biased and in favour of the development, due, I strongly suspect, to his position as a Governor for the Hospital.

I would also like to add that during the site visit, which he arrived at 40 minutes late, his opening words were '*This is not a Rugby scrum! Any shouting and we are off!*'.

He threatened to leave on several other occasions despite all members and visitors acting professionally, though clearly concerned at the impact of the development.

Mr Galvin also swore when objectors arranged for a delivery vehicle, similar in size to the proposed Sainsbury's delivery vehicles, drove by to help illustrate the serious traffic issues along Union Terrace. This attitude demonstrates his biased views as well as being unprofessional and rude to concerned members of the public and local residents.

I believe Mr Galvin acted in the interests of the Hospital and not the residents of York.

Residents, including myself, were so thoroughly disgusted at the whole affair we shouted 'disgrace!' as we left the committee meeting.

I hope you fully investigate Mr Gavin's role as Governor of York Hospital and why he failed to take any notice of the substantial objections that were raised at the committee meeting. I trust you will take appropriate steps to ensure that this travesty of justice is corrected and the residents of York can be sure their Councillors are acting in their interests and not commercial corporations.

I look forward to your reply,

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Dickinson.

*It is important that you provide all the information which you wish to have taken into account by the Monitoring Officer and Independent Persons in considering whether your complaint requires a detailed investigation. For example:*

- You should be as specific as possible as to what you are alleging the Councillors did. For example instead of saying that a Councillor insulted you, you should state what they said or did.*
- You should provide dates of the the alleged incidents if possible or a general timeframe if you cannot remember dates.*
- You should confirm whether there were any witnesses.*
- You should ensure that your complaint is about the code of conduct. The Joint Standards Committee cannot deal with general complaints about decisions made by a Council or actions taken by Councillors in a purely private capacity.*

#### **Additional help**

5. Complaints must be submitted in writing. This includes by e-mail. We can make reasonable adjustments if you have a disability which prevents you making your complaint in writing or provide assistance if you have any other difficulty which prevents you completing this form.

**Wilson, Alexander**

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**From:** McCusker, Glen  
**Sent:** 06 June 2016 13:37  
**To:** Wilson, Alexander  
**Subject:** FW: Re: Councillor complaint  
**Attachments:** CodeofGovernanceJuly2014\_For Council.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Caption:** Norwel Email (LCB1.600)  
**Client:** LCB1  
**ClientDesc:** Customer & Business Support  
**ConvertToPDF:** No  
**currentSubject:** Standards Complaint - Cllr. J. Galvin (LCB1.600)  
**DatabaseID:** 800  
**DocID:** 822863  
**FromOutlook:** Yes  
**Matter:** 600  
**MatterDesc:** Standards Complaint - Cllr. J. Galvin  
**NorAtt:** No  
**NorSaved:** Yes  
**NorwelMail:** Yes  
**SaveToNorwel:** Yes

**From:** Andrew Dickinson [mailto:andrew.dickinson@york.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 18 April 2016 19:22  
**To:** Docherty, Andrew  
**Subject:** Fwd: Re: Councillor complaint

Dear Mr Docherty,

Please find attached the code of Governance as requested. I have highlighted relevant sections, which are on page 21, for your convenience.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or clarification on any of the points I have raised.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind regards,

Andrew Dickinson.

On 18 April 2016 at 10:29, [monitoringofficer@york.gov.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@york.gov.uk) <[monitoringofficer@york.gov.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@york.gov.uk)> wrote:  
 Dear Mr. Dickinson,

Thank you for your e-mail. Can you provide me with a copy of the code of conduct to which you refer in your complaint.

Regards,

Andy Docherty | Assistant Director

t: 01904 551004 | e: [andrew.docherty@york.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.docherty@york.gov.uk)

City of York Council | Customer and Business Support Services  
West Offices| Station Rise | York YO1 6GA  
[www.york.gov.uk](http://www.york.gov.uk) | [@CityofYork](https://facebook.com/cityofyork)

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Dickinson [mailto:[andrew.docherty@york.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.docherty@york.gov.uk)]  
Sent: 17 April 2016 21:06  
To: [monitoringofficer@york.gov.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@york.gov.uk)  
Subject: Councillor complaint

To whom it may concern,

Please find attached my completed complaint form for your immediate attention and action.

Kind regards,

Andrew Dickinson.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Help protect the environment! - please don't print this email unless you really need to.  
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