

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Update on Complaints and Feedback</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Standards Committee on 14 October 2014
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR</b>	Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance and Improvement Services

**OUTCOME/BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY**

To inform and feedback results of the Member Complaints process.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) To note the report and agree any further action the Committee may wish to take following analysis of the complaints;

**SUMMARY OF REPORT**

A total of 15 new Code of Conduct complaints have been received by the Monitoring Officer between 1 July 2014 and 3 October 2014.

## Background

Under Section 9.1.13.5 of the Council's constitution, the Monitoring Officer provides a report to the Standards Committee, on a quarterly basis, which contains the following: the number and nature of complaints received; progress on any investigations and associated costs; and identify areas where training or other action might avoid further complaints. However the name(s) of the Member(s) will not be disclosed.

Since the last meeting of the Committee in July 2014, 15 new Code of Conduct complaints have been received. Under the Council's adopted policy for the consideration of Code of Conduct Complaints, the Monitoring has delegated authority to decide whether the complaint:

- a) can be resolved informally i.e. by mediation with the two parties before making a decision on whether the complaint merits formal investigation;
- b) requires investigation;
- c) should be referred to the Standards Committee;
- d) no further action should be taken.

Of the 15 complaints received since July 2014:

- No further action was taken on two cases;
- One case was referred for further investigation;
- Two cases could not be considered further as the Member had been disqualified from Office;
- 10 complaints were awaiting a decision by the Monitoring Officer at the time of this report.

## Analysis of Issues

The nature of the complaints is shown at Appendix A.

<b>Reasons for considering the report in Part 2</b>
If the Committee decides to discuss the specifics of individual cases it may be necessary to consider excluding the public if that would involve the disclosure of exempt information.

<b>List of Background Papers</b>
None.

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**Appendix A - Code of Conduct Complaints Summary 2 July to 1 October 2014**

<b>Council</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Summary of Complaint</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Wokingham Borough Council	09/07/2014	Bullying	Referred for investigation – ongoing
Wokingham Borough Council	31/07/2014	Failure to respond to correspondence	No further action
Wokingham Borough Council	25/07/2014	Disrepute	Not investigated as no longer a Councillor
Wokingham Borough Council	25/07/2014	Disrepute	Not investigated as no longer a Councillor
Wokingham Borough Council	07/08/2014	Failure to follow Nolan principles of honesty, openness and integrity	No further action
Wokingham Borough Council	22/09/2014	Failure to declare an interest and withdraw (Nine Members)	Pending decision
Parish/Town Council	24/09/2014	Failure to declare an interest and withdraw	Pending decision