

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Monday 12 th November 2018
Report Subject	Overview of Ethical Complaints
Report Author	Chief Officer Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the third such report giving a running total of the ethical complaints alleging a breach of the code that have been submitted to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. As per the committee's resolution at its meeting in March the complaints distinguish between different Councils and Councillors whilst still remaining anonymous.

There have been further complaints submitted in respect of a single town council since the last report. One complaint came from a member of the public, which the ombudsman has decided to investigate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the Committee notes the number and type of complaints.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	Number of complaints
1.01	<p>The attached spreadsheet at Appendix A lists in summary form the complaints received during 2016/17 and 2017/18. Each entry lists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ombudsman's reference number (year/4 digit reference) • the type of Council (Community, County or Town) • the complainant (Councillor, officer, public) • the provisions which are alleged to have been breached • the decision at each of the 3 stages of investigation

1.02	A significant number of complaints have been submitted in respect of one Town Council. One of these is from a member of the public and is being investigated and this investigation is still underway. It is inappropriate to comment in detail whilst the investigation is underway. Indeed, the details of the complaint are the subject to an obligation of confidentiality under the Local Government Act 2000.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None associated with this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	None.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	None

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	A - Number of complaints.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None Contact Officer: Gareth Owens, Chief Officer Governance Telephone: 01352 702344 E-mail: gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – the Ombudsman investigates service complaints and alleged breaches of the code. The ombudsman will not investigate and alleged breach of the code unless there is clear evidence of a breach and it is in the public interest to expend public funds investigating.