

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2020
<b>Report Subject</b>	Overview of Ethical Complaints
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer Governance

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the sixth 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 (PSOW). As per the Committee's resolution, the complaints distinguish between different Councils and Councillors whilst still remaining anonymous.

16 complaints have been received since the last report. 16 complaints have been resolved since the last report.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

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

<b>1.00</b>	<b>NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS</b>
1.01	<p>The attached spreadsheet at Appendix A lists in summary form the complaints received during 2019/20. Each entry lists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Ombudsman's reference number (year/4 digit reference)</li> <li>• the type of Council (Community, County or Town)</li> <li>• the complainant (Councillor, officer, public)</li> <li>• the provisions which are alleged to have been breached</li> <li>• the decision at each of the 3 stages of investigation</li> </ul>

1.02	A significant number of complaints have been submitted in respect of one Town Council. Another Council appears to have a large number of complaints but these are all, in reality, a single complaint about a large number of councillors arising out of the same single incident.
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<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	None associated with this report.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	None.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	None

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix A - Number of complaints.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	None  <b>Contact Officer:</b> Gareth Owens, Chief Officer Governance <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702344 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk">gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<b>Public Services Ombudsman for Wales</b> – 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.