

**STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE
27 January 2015**

REPORT OF COUNTY CLERK AND MONITORING OFFICER

AGENDA ITEM: 5

MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS 2014/15

Reason for this Report

To provide Members of the Committee with a brief update on complaints made against Members alleging breaches of the Code of Conduct.

Background

Since January 2014, the Monitoring Officer has dealt with a total of 92 formal code of conduct complaints. July to September saw a significant increase in complaints by members of the public. The table below shows an analysis of the Complaints on a quarterly basis and their current status.

	1 Jan – 31 March 2014	1 April – 30 June 2014	1 July – 31 September	1 October – 31 December
Total Number of Complaints	16	14	55	7
Type/Source of Complaints				
Member on Member	9	3	15	6
Public on Member	7	11	37	1
Officer on Member	0	0	3	0
Status/Resolution of Complaint				
Informally resolved	6	5	50	5
Referred to PSOW 1	5	7	2	
Referred to PSOW 2	1	0	0	
Referred to S&E	1 (in process)	1	3	1
Active	3	1	5	1

Key

- *Referred to PSOW 1* = Referred to Public Services Ombudsman for Wales as their office is the appropriate body to investigate and report on the subject matter of the complaint due to the complainant being a member of the public. Informal resolution may be attempted prior to such reference being made.
- *Referred to PSOW 2* = Referred to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales as the matter is not considered to be a “minor” Member on Member complaint and therefore not suitable for informal or local resolution.
- *Active* = not yet resolved, complaint is under investigation or informal resolution is being attempted.

Trends/Monitoring Officers Comments

1. It is the Monitoring Officer’s intention that these figures be reported to the Committee on a regular basis.
2. There has been a noticeable decrease in the last quarter in the number of complaints especially in relation to member on member complaints.
3. A well-attended Member Seminar was held on the 8 December 2015 updating Members on the Member Code of Conduct. It is proposed to repeat this session each year.

Legal Implications

1. There are no legal implications arising from the content of this report.

Financial Implications

2. There are no direct financial implications arising from the content of this report.

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report.

MARIE ROSENTHAL
COUNTY CLERK AND MONITORING OFFICER

15 January 2015