

**STANDARDS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE  
27 January 2015**

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**REPORT OF COUNTY CLERK AND MONITORING OFFICER**

**AGENDA ITEM: 5**

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**MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS 2014/15**

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**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.

	<b>1 Jan – 31 March 2014</b>	<b>1 April – 30 June 2014</b>	<b>1 July – 31 September</b>	<b>1 October – 31 December</b>
Total Number of Complaints	16	14	55	7
<b>Type/Source of Complaints</b>				
Member on Member	9	3	15	6
Public on Member	7	11	37	1
Officer on Member	0	0	3	0
<b>Status/Resolution of Complaint</b>				
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