

Appendix G1 - Cllr Michael's Supplementary Response to the Complaints

From: Michael, Michael (Cllr) <Michael.Michael@cardiff.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 November 2021 18:12
To: Ariyadasa, Kumi <KAriyadasa@cardiff.gov.uk>
Cc: Williams, James <James.Williams2@cardiff.gov.uk>; Farnham, Mandy <Mandy.Farnham@cardiff.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Code of Conduct Complaint CDC 21/003 - Pre-Hearing Arrangements - RESPONSE REQUIRED TODAY PLEASE
Sensitivity: Confidential

Kumi. Having reread the complaint from Coun Molik I would make the following points. At no time was I rude or bullying to Coun Molik in any of the emails provided. As far back to the email from Coun Molik on the 7.3.21 Coun Molik questions both the Deputy Directors honesty as well as mine .

Coun Molik again questions my honesty in the first paragraph in the email send on the 20.3.21. It seems that its ok for Coun Molik to question my honesty but takes offence when I robustly defend my service area for the fantastic job they were doing during the pandemic.

Coun Molik's questions to myself on my statement during the council meeting on the 21 Jan seemed to me to be an attempt by her to dismiss the huge effort made by the whole of the staff ranging from the management through to the crew members in what is still a pandemic situation. I merely reminded her that the pandemic was ongoing and it had an ongoing effect with drives and crews shielding and isolating.

In answer to a question earlier I again made the offer to engage with members from all political parties to make sure that councillors were informed about the reasons we were undertaking the changes to the waste collections.

These were the biggest changes in waste collections in this city for a generation and it was important that councillors were kept informed.

Throughout our email exchange it seemed to me that Coun Molik was only interested in scoring political points and while not only questioning my integrity and honesty but seemed quite happy to downplay the role of the pandemic on our crews.

On several occasions Coun Molik informs me that she was the CEO of a third sector provider and she would have had plans to deal with the problems we and the rest of the country were experiencing. It was Coun Molik who brought this up not me.

I get hundreds of emails to deal with and at no time have I received any complaints about my responses,

I consider my responses to be robust in supporting my officers and take note that this is local politics and not a game,

The old saying that if you give it you should also be able to take it applies in my view as well as the ruling by the public service ombudsman a short while ago that councillors should grow a thicker skin. It seems ok for me to go to council meetings and be subject to all kinds of allegations but I must behave like a choirboy .

In my view this is simply nonsense, I was elected in 1997 and this is the first time I have had a complaint of this nature against me.

In the third complaint Coun Molik is complaining that I answered two questions in a different way. It was two separate questions about two separate incidents, of course it would be two answers. I object to Coun Molik try to bring up something that happened in 2018. Its simply not appropriate to try to construct a different narrative in a way that Coun Molik wishes.

The regulations state that if Coun Molik believed there was a complaint she had three months to complain, she did not.

It is not acceptable for Coun Molik to engineer evidence where it does not exist and it shows a complete lack of respect.

Cofion | Regards

Michael

Y Cyng | Cllr Michael Michael

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