

A Review of the Complaints Received Under the Members' Code of Conduct

To: Constitution and Ethics Committee

Meeting Date: 23 April 2024

From: Service Director: Legal and Governance

Outcome: To brief the Constitution and Ethics Committee on the number and nature of the complaints received about Members under the Code of Conduct from 13 September 2023 to date, along with details of other complaints which are in process or have been concluded.

Recommendation: The Constitution and Ethics Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report.

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1. Background

- 1.1 The Localism Act (“the Act”) places a statutory duty on the Council to promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst its Members and co-opted Members. This includes the obligation on the Council to have in place a Code of Conduct setting out the standard of conduct expected of Members when acting in their capacity as County Councillors.
- 1.2 The requirements of the Act are supported by Article 2 (Members of the Council) in the Council’s Constitution, and by Part 5.1 (Members’ Code of Conduct). The Constitution and Ethics Committee’s terms of reference give it authority to monitor the operation of the Code of Conduct and the complaints received under it.
- 1.3 This report serves to provide the Constitution and Ethics Committee with an overview of the complaints received under the Code of Conduct since the last update on 13 September 2023.

2. Overview of Complaints

2.1 Ongoing Complaints

- 2.1.1 There are two ongoing complaints. The publication of details of complaints only takes place after conclusion of the complaint and only if a breach of the code has been established. The purpose of this restriction is to reduce speculation on limited information, to ensure there is no compromise of any assessment or investigation, and to uphold the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- 2.1.2 Since the time of last reporting, there has been three new complaints, one of which has been resolved as no further action necessary. The other two complaints have been assessed and referred for investigation.
 - CoCo/2024/17a - use of social media/breach of the respect provisions
 - CoCo/2024/18a - use of social media/breach of the respect provisions
 - CoCo/2024/19a - breach of the respect provisions relating to contact with a constituent

2.2 Concluded Complaints

- 2.2.1 The following complaints have been concluded since the time of last reporting:
 - CoCo/2024/19a (see above)

3. Source documents

- 3.1 The Council’s Code of Conduct, information about how to make a conduct complaint, and the process that will be followed can be found via the following link:

[Complain about a councillor or co-opted member - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)