

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 2 November 2023

Present:

Councillor Nicholas Bennett J.P. (Chairman)
Councillor Melanie Stevens (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Julie Ireland, Councillor Mike Jack, Councillor
Tony McPartlan, Councillor Michael Tickner, Councillor
Thomas Turrell, Jonathan Farrell, Andrew Jackson and
Kath Nicholson

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor David Cartwright and Mr Gary Rogers (Independent Person).

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no additional declarations of interest.

3 QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2023

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2023 be agreed, and signed as a correct record.

5 MONITORING OFFICER'S GENERAL REPORT

Report CSD23069

The report updated the Committee on a range of standards issues.

In respect of Appendix C detailing complaints received since the last meeting in February 2023, a Member queried whether there was a way in which any emerging trends over time could be reflected in the appendix, by having the unique reference for the same Member or the same complainant who are in the process repeatedly. In response, the Monitoring Officer explained that as any clear trends were identified they would be detailed and further expounded in the body of the Monitoring Officer's Report.

In response to another question, the Monitoring Officer explained that when a number of complaints were received about a Member, but the threshold for breach of the Code were not reached, still informal discussions took place

including an explanation of the impact of dealing with the complaints even if there are no breaches. It was noted that each complaint had to be considered on its own merit and it was not appropriate for an Independent Person to be informed of the history of previous complaints.

Finally, the Committee agreed that complaints alleging a breach of the Code of Conduct arising from email communication should not be considered unless the complainant provided copies of the emails evidencing the alleged breach.

RESOLVED: That

- 1. The Monitoring Officer's General Report be noted; and**
- 2. It be agreed that complaints alleging a breach of the code arising from email communication should not be considered unless the complainant provides copies of the emails evidencing the alleged breach.**

The Meeting ended at 7.08 pm

Chairman