

<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Legal And Governance Services Executive Member for Legal And Governance Services
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Standards Committee
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<b>Date:</b>	26 April 2022
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<b>Title:</b>	Quarterly update report to Standards Committee
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<b>Report for:</b>	Information
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<b>Status:</b>	Public
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<b>Strategic priority:</b>	Quality of service
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<b>Key decision:</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Why:</b>	Report is for information only
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<b>Urgent:</b>	No
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<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
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### **Executive summary**

This report provides a quarterly update to the Standards Committee in regards to the recent and current position concerning Code of Conduct Complaints so that the committee has assurance about the practice and process

## Purpose

1. To provide information only by way of a quarterly update to the Standards Committee in regards to the recent and current position concerning Code of Conduct Complaints so that the committee has assurance about the practice and process.

## Background and relevant information

2. This report is provided to committee members to give an overview of the current, and recent position in regards to the Code of Conduct complaints received.

Year (Jan-Dec)	Total complaints	Member on Member	Other on Member (ie member of public, officer)	No. withdrawn/ not progressed by complainant	No. rejected	No. resolved informally	No. to investigation	No. to standards Committee after investigation
2019	27	9	18	4	9	10	4	3
2020	31	4	27	16	12	1	1	0
2021	35	13	22	4	2	17	4	0
2022 (to date)	4	1	3	1	0	1	0	0

3. There is 1 complaint from 2020, and 10 complaints from 2021 at various stages of the process which have not yet concluded. We are unable to give any specifics about those complaints at this time so as not to prejudice any outcomes, and/or create a conflict should any of those complaints need to come to Standards Committee at a future date.
4. Of the 2020 complaints, another two complaints have now been considered by the Monitoring Officer and have been referred for investigation.
5. There have been 4 complaints submitted to date in 2022, one of which was subsequently withdrawn by the complainant, leaving 3 complaints, 2 of which are ongoing.
6. One complaint has been resolved this year, the details of which are as below:

**Ref 12999** – an allegation from one member in respect of another member which alleged a breach of the code of conduct as follows:

1. They have not treated others with civility and respect
2. They have engaged in conduct which could be deemed to bully, harass or intimidate another person

Upon consideration of the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Person, a decision was made to deal with the matter informally by way of advice and guidance. The matter was therefore concluded on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

7. There is now a code of conduct complaints dashboard in place in order to be able to improve the monitoring of the performance in regards to the complaints, and better analyse outcomes etc The performance dashboard which will enable analysis of patterns and outcomes concerning complaints.
8. In line with the recently approved amended code of conduct, the process of dealing with any complaints has also been reviewed and the updated arrangement document is attached for your information.
9. The process has been cross referenced with the LGA model code of conduct guidance to ensure that we are operating within those guidelines. There have been some minor amendments to the process, such as changes to a two stage preliminary tests to determine whether a complaint is accepted or rejected on receipt, but the overall process will remain broadly the same. We have also included and updated timescales where appropriate.

### **What decision(s) are being recommended?**

That the Standards Committee:

- Note the contents of this report for information only.

### **Rationale for the recommended decision(s)**

10. No decision required – report is for information only.

### **Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended**

11. None – no decision is required. Report for update only.

### **Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)**

#### ***Legal***

12. There is no legal impact as a decision is not required.

#### ***Strategic priorities and risks***

13. Not applicable.

#### ***Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection***

14. There are no issues of equality and diversity as a decision is not required.

#### ***Financial***

15. There is no financial impact as a decision is not required.

**Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)**

Not applicable as a decision is not required.

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline

**Appendices**

1	Members code of conduct complaint procedure.
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**Background papers**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

**Contact:** Charlotte Benjamin  
**Email:** charotte\_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk