



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Mary Grimshaw, Monitoring Officer	Standards Committee	3 November 2021

Current Complaints: Summary

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To update members on the complaints received since the previous meeting of Standards Committee on 18 March 2021.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Members will be aware of the number of complaints received, whether they relate to borough or town/parish councillors and the general nature of the allegations.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 For Members to note the report.

4. Complaints

- 4.1 Since the last Standards Committee meeting, between 1 March and 31 October, there have been six formal complaints about members, all of which have been about the misuse of social media. Four of the complaints were about Wyre councillors and two about Town/Parish councillors.
- 4.2 Following an initial review of the complaints in liaison with the Independent Person, the Monitoring Officer considered that in four cases there was no breach and therefore no action taken. Of the remaining two, posts were removed from the social media site in each case and a clarification statement sought from one. Recommendations have also been made for the subject members to attend social media training.

5. Background

- 5.1 Members of the committee had raised the issue of the reporting of complaints and the problem of maintaining a balance between updating

members fully and withholding any information that might compromise any future formal process.

- 5.2** At its previous meeting, the Standards Committee agreed that at future meetings, rather than presenting a schedule of complaints to each meeting, the Monitoring Officer would take a statistical approach and provide members with a breakdown of complaints that were occurring biannually. The report would indicate whether they were Borough or Town/Parish and the types of allegations. This would assist with future development and training for members as a whole. For example, if social media was generating a high number of complaints, we could support members with this.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	None arising directly from this report.
Legal	None arising directly from this report.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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