



ISLINGTON

Law and Public Services
Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD

Report of : Director of Law and Public Services

Meeting of		Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Standards	26 th May 2004		

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt
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If exempt under paragraph 10.4, category (1-15) of the Access to Information rules give reasons. Because:

Subject: STANDARDS AND ETHICS INDICATORS

1. Synopsis

This report sets out a series of indicators which will help give members an indication of the health of the authority in relation to Standards and Ethics.

2. Recommendation

That the Committee consider the indicators for the first quarter, January to March 2004, and comment as appropriate.

3. Background

3.1 This report pulls together existing information which will help give members an indication of the health of the authority in relation to Standards and Ethics.

3.2 The information and indicators for the period January to March 2004 are set out below:

District Audit Public Interest Reports

Quarter 1
January – March
0

Objections to the Council's Accounts

Quarter 1
January – March
0

Referrals to and Investigations undertaken by the Standards Board for England

Quarter 1
January – March
0

Number of Whistleblowing Incidents reported

Quarter 1
January – March
1

There has been one incident of an anonymous complaint in relation to staffing and procurement practice in the public protection division of Environment and Conservation. This was investigated under the whistleblowing procedure and was found to be unfounded.

Number of challenges to procurements

Quarter 1
January – March
0

Industrial Action taken or notified

Quarter 1
January – March
0

Number of Employment Tribunals received

Quarter 1
January – March
12 new cases 13 for same period last year

Outstanding Cases

The number of outstanding tribunal cases as at 31st March, 2003 was 24.

Disposed of Cases

7 cases were disposed of during January to March 2004 (1 from Regeneration, 2 from Housing 1 from Social Services, 1 from Finance and Property, 1 from Environment and Conservation).

2 withdrawn, 2 dismissed, 2 settled and 1 lost - (a complaint of disability discrimination made by an applicant arising out of his unsuccessful application for a post within the Social Services Department. The Council was found to have failed to make proper enquiries of his past disability to establish the defence of justification. Accordingly the Council was found to have discriminated unlawfully against him on grounds of disability. The Council was ordered to pay compensation . The Council is appealing the amount awarded to the Applicant).

Comments of the Director of Law and Public Services

The level of ET claims does not give rise to any specific concerns and it is not possible to identify any particular department where the practice is poor. Nor does it highlight any trends in respect of types of claims. The total number of tribunal cases brought last year was 39.

Number of New Ombudsman complaints received

	Quarter 1
	January – March
	33
- Benefit	10
- Other housing	16
- Environment & Conservation	3
- Finance	3
- Social Services	1

Number of Ombudsman complaints settled

	Quarter 1
	January – March
	38
Total number where compensation paid	15
- Benefit	5
- Other Housing	10
- Education	

Ombudsman maladministration cases

There were no maladministration reports issued against the Council by the Ombudsman during this fourth quarter.

5. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendation

These indicators are provided at the request of the committee to help give the committee an indication of the health of the authority in relation to Standards and Ethics.

Background papers:

Statistics provided by the relevant departments.

Final Report Clearance

Signed by	_____	_____
	Director of Law and Public Services	Date

Received by	_____	_____
	Head of Scrutiny and Democratic Services	Date

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