



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	11th January 2005	5	

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 fourth quarter, October-December 2004, and comment as appropriate.

3. Background

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.

District Audit Public Interest Reports

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - September	Oct - December
0	0	0	0

Objections to the Council's Accounts

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - September	Oct-December
0	0	1	0

On 26th September the District Auditor received objections to the Council's account for the financial years 01 / 02 and 02 / 03. In essence it is alleged that few Council departments spent more than the Council had agreed they should spend when it set their budgets in February. The Council has submitted a formal response to the objection and a hearing will now take place on 28th January 2005.

Referrals to and Investigations undertaken by the Standards Board for England

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - September	Oct - December
0	0	0	0

Number of Whistleblowing Incidents reported

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - September	Oct - December
1	0	0	1

There has been one incident in relation to financial arrangements in a school. This is currently being investigated by Internal Audit.

Number of challenges to procurements

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - September	Oct - December
0	0	0	0

Disciplinary action relating to breaches of the Member/Officer Protocol

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - September	Oct - December
			0

Disciplinary action relating to fraud

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - September	Oct - December
			0

Industrial Action taken or notified

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - September	Oct - December
0	0	0	0

Number of Employment Tribunals received

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - September	Oct - December
12 new cases 13 for same period last year	11 new cases 10 for the same period last year	10 new cases 8 for the same period last year	5 new cases 11 for the same period last year

Outstanding Cases

The number of outstanding cases as at 31st December 2004 is 24. As at 31st December 2003 there were 26 cases outstanding.

Disposed of Cases

3 cases were disposed of during the period October to December 2004 (2 from Housing and Performance Management and 1 from Environment). 17 cases were disposed of for the same period last year.

New rules of procedure introduced in the Employment tribunals on 1st October 2004 has probably had an initial impact on the number of claims being submitted.

Number of New Ombudsman complaints received

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	January – March	April – June	July - September	Oct – December
	33	24	23	
- Benefit	10	5	4	
- Other housing	16	13	12	
- Environment & Conservation	3	5	4	
- Finance	3	-	2	
- Social Services	1	-	1	
- Law and Public Services	-	1	-	

Details relating to Quarter 4 will be circulated at the meeting.

Number of Ombudsman complaints settled

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	January – March	April – June	July - September	Oct – December
	38	30	36	
Total number where compensation paid	15	8	10	
- Benefit	5	6	4	
- Other Housing	10	2	4	
- Education	-	-	-	
- Law & Public Services	-	-	1	
- Environment & Conservation	-	-	1	

Ombudsman maladministration cases

There were no maladministration reports issued against the Council by the Ombudsman during the second quarter. Figures for the third quarter will be laid round at the meeting.

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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