



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	19 th April 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 first quarter, January-March 2005, 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
January – March
0

Objections to the Council's Accounts

Quarter 1
January – March
0

In relation to the objection to the accounts reported at the last meeting, the Council have submitted all their evidence and are still awaiting the outcome from the District Auditor.

Referrals to and Investigations undertaken by the Standards Board for England

Quarter 1
January – March
3

Complaints were made to the Board in respect of allegations of using council resources to further party political interests; councillors passing a percentage of members allowances to their political party and failure to declare an interest in relation to a council meeting item on G.P. provision in Islington. The Board have advised in 2 cases that the allegations should not be investigated further and in the last case, although there was a failure to disclose a personal interest, this was not prejudicial and that no further action needs to be taken.

Number of Whistleblowing Incidents reported

Quarter 1
January – March
0

In relation to the previous incident reported at the last meeting relating to financial arrangements in a school, Internal Audit were not able to substantiate the allegations of fraud but they did make a number of recommendations to the school for improving their financial procedures.

Number of challenges to procurements

Quarter 1
January – March
0

Disciplinary action relating to breaches of the Member/Officer Protocol

Quarter 1
January – March
0

Disciplinary action relating to fraud

Quarter 1
January – March
0

Freedom of Information Act Indicators

Quarter 1	
January – March	
Total number of requests received	100
No. of requests closed	53 20 of which were outside of the deadline
No. of requests outstanding	47 29 beyond deadline, 11 of which were for contracts

No. where information was withheld due to exemptions/fees applied

Request number:	Surname of requestor	Exemptions applied	Original request
1247	Arnott	Section 41 to info requested relating to the internal rate of return.	Pensions
1688	Yuvanc	Section 40 under FOIA 'Personal Information' Absolute exemption	Council Tax info relating to others against specific addresses
1157	The Standard	Exempt under section 40 of FOIA as it would be a breach of the first and sixth principle of DPA (Personal Data)	Info on Richard Ewen Head Teacher of Islington Arts and Media College
1339 2005/005	Boyle	Commercial sensitivity outweighs public interest in disclosure exempt under section 43 of the FOIA	Scholarest Witheld info = quality reports and break down of payments.

1091	The Standard	Sent a fees notice and got no response, determined it would cost in excess of 1000.00	Margaret Hodge
2806	Brill	Sent a fees and disbursement notice, Mr Brill has now lodged a formal stage 1 complaint against the fees notice which is being investigated.	Info on Highbury New Park 20mph zone and Barnsbury Area Scheme and Accident Data (12 A4 Folders have to be photocopied to comply with this request)
1503	Blunden	Sent a fees notice and got no response, determined it would cost in excess of 1000.00	Margaret Hodge

Industrial Action taken or notified

Quarter 1
January – March
0

Industrial Action by Unison and TGWU was notified in furtherance of the national campaign to maintain current pension arrangements. Two new statutory changes were due to come into force on the 1st April, 2005. Following discussions the government agreed to withdraw the proposals and set up further discussions. The one day strike due to take place on 23rd March was therefore called off.

Number of Employment Tribunals received

Quarter 1
January – March
1 new case
7 for same period last year

Outstanding Cases

Number of Outstanding cases is 16 and 2 multiple claims - (Pensions 18 Claimants and Equal Pay Homecarers 48 Claimants). During the period 1st January to 31 March 2004 there were 22 claims and 2 multiple claims outstanding - (Pensions 27 Claimants and Equal Pay Homecarers 48 Claimants).

Disposed of Cases

Number of cases disposed of is 13. 7 cases were disposed of during period 1 January to 31 March 2004.

Number of New Ombudsman complaints received

	Quarter 1
	January – March
	14
- Benefit	1
- Other housing	10
- Environment & Conservation	3

Number of Ombudsman complaints settled

	Quarter 1
	January – March
Complaints settled	15
Total number where compensation paid:	6
- Benefit	4
- Other Housing	2

Ombudsman maladministration cases

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