



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	11 th July 2005	6	

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt

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 second quarter, April-June 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

2004

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

2005

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
January – March	April – June
0	0

Objections to the Council's Accounts

2004

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

2005

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
January – March	April-June
0	0

In relation to the objection to the accounts reported in Quarter 3, the Council are still awaiting the outcome from the District Auditor.

Referrals to and Investigations undertaken by the Standards Board for England

2004

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

2005

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
January – March	April-June
3	2

Complaints were made to the Board in respect of allegations of members delaying the start of a public meeting for the purpose of political campaigning, and a member making misleading claims about the misuse of the proceeds of parking fines. In both cases the Standards Board advised that the allegations should not be investigated.

Number of Whistleblowing Incidents reported

2004

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

2005

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
January – March	April-June
0	3

There has been one anonymous complaint received about the misuse of Council resources by a member of staff which is under investigation. One complaint relates to a previous issue relating to Highbury Grove School. This is currently being investigated. The final complaint relates to an issue which all parties have agreed will be dealt with as a staff complaint, rather than through the whistleblowing process.

Number of challenges to procurements

2004

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

2005

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
January – March	April-June
0	0

Disciplinary action relating to breaches of the Member/Officer Protocol

2004

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

2005

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
January – March	April-June
0	0

Disciplinary action relating to fraud

2004

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

2005

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
January – March	April – June
0	0

Freedom of Information Act Indicators

Quarter 1		Quarter 2	
January – March		April – June	
Total number of requests received	100	Total number of requests received	103
No. of requests closed	53 20 of which were outside of the deadline	No. of requests closed	72 26 of which were outside of the deadline
No. of requests outstanding	47 29 beyond deadline, 11 of which were for contracts	No. of requests outstanding	31

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

Quarter 1: January – March

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 Withheld 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

Request number:	Surname of requestor	Exemptions applied	Original request
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

Quarter 2: April – June

Request number:	Surname of requestor	Exemptions applied	Original request
5375	Hooper	Organisational structure of the Social Services Dept and structure of each Directorate. Please include names of each staff.	Part Exempt under s40 of the FOIA personal data of third persons.
5872	Blunden	All correspondence between Scolarest and the Town Hall.	Exempt fully under s43 Commercial Interest in renegotiations with Scholarest.
6612	Wade	Names, email addresses, job titles of all council departments.	Part Exempt under s40 of the FOIA personal data of third persons.
7422	Davies	Organisational structure charts of Council detailing all Senior Management and total staff members.	Part Exempt under s40 of the FOIA personal data of third persons

Industrial Action taken or notified

2004

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

2005

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
January – March	April – June
0	0

Number of Employment Tribunals received

2004

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

2005

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
January – March	April – June
1 new case 7 for same period last year	3 new cases 11 for the same period last year

Outstanding Cases

Number of Outstanding cases is 14 and 2 multiple claims - (Pensions 18 Claimants and Equal Pay Homecarers 48 Claimants). During the period 1st April to June 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 5. 11 cases were disposed of during the period 1 April to June 2004.

Number of New Ombudsman complaints received

2004

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	January – March	April – June	July - September	Oct – December
	33	24	23	20
- Benefit	10	5	4	3
- Other housing	16	13	12	10
- Environment & Conservation	3	5	4	5
- Finance	3	-	2	2
- Social Services	1	-	1	-
- Law and Public Services	-	1	-	-

2005

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
	January – March	April – June
	14	12
- Benefit	1	3
- Other housing	10	6
- Environment & Conservation	3	2
- Finance	-	1

Number of Ombudsman complaints settled

2004

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	January – March	April – June	July – September	Oct – December
	38	30	36	22 7
Total number where compensation paid	15	8	10	3
- Benefit	5	6	4	3
- Other Housing	10	2	4	1
- Education	-	-	-	
- Law & Public Services	-	-	1	
- Environment & Conservation	-	-	1	

2005

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
	January – March	April-June
Complaints settled	15	15
Total number where compensation paid:	6	6
- Benefit	4	3
- Other Housing	2	3

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

Report author : John Lynch
 Tel : 020-7527 3002
 Fax : 020-7527 3092
 E-mail : john.lynch@islington.gov.uk