



ISLINGTON

Corporate Resources
Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD

Report of : Director of Corporate Resources

Meeting of		Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Standards	11 January 2006	8	

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 fourth quarter, October - December 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	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July-Sept	October – December
0	0	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	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April-June	July-Sept	October – December
0	0	1	0

In relation to the objection to the accounts reported in Quarter 3 for 2004, the District Auditor turned down the objection. His letter states he will not be issuing a Public Interest Report or apply to the courts for a declaration that the items of account are contrary to law.

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	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April-June	July-Sept	October – December
3	2	0	3

Complaints were made to the Board in respect of allegations of members trying to discredit an objector at a Planning meeting by comments made at the meeting; members giving dismissive written replies to complainants. In all three cases the Standards Board have 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	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April-June	July-Sept	Oct - December
0	3	2	0

With regard to the anonymous complaint about a number of different issues in relation to the Council Tax Office it was found that there was no substance to the complaint.

With regard to the anonymous complaint in relation to Councillor Sawyer it was found there was no case to answer.

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	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April-June	July-Sept	Oct - December
0	0	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	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April-June	July-Sept	Oct - December
0	0	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	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July-Sept	Oct - December
0	0	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

Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July – September		October - December	
Total number of requests received	51	Total number of requests received	89
No. of requests closed	35 (7 of which were outside of the deadline)	No. of requests closed	61 (5 of which were outside of the deadline)
No. of requests outstanding	5	No. of requests outstanding	2
No. of requests open (still within deadline)	11	No. of requests open (still within deadline)	26

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.

Request number:	Surname of requestor	Exemptions applied	Original request
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

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

Quarter 3: July-Sept.

Request number:	Surname of requestor	Exemptions applied	Original request
10803	Evans (The Guardian)	Questions on CEA's contract with Scolarest	Certain parts were exempt under s40 of the FOIA personal data of third persons and s43 which was commercially sensitive.
11001	Hanna	Entire building control file for St Christopher's Court	Part exempt under s40 of the FOIA personal data of third persons and s44 Legal prohibitions on disclosure (Absolute).
4559	Wright	Islington's current Lifts contract	Exempt under s43 Commercially Sensitive

Quarter 4: October-December

Request number:	Surname of requestor	Exemptions applied	Original Request
15187	Howarth	Section 43 – Prejudice to the Council's and third parties' commercial interests	Information regarding the BARNSBURY COMPLEX current legal ownership status, date of sale of site and when site first put up for sale etc
17885	Trigo	We can not provide the addresses of these properties as it is exempt under s43 Commercial Interests	Addresses of empty properties in Islington
18466	MacBruce	We can not provide the addresses of these properties as it is exempt under s43 Commercial Interests	Addresses of empty properties in Islington
19760	Young	Under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act the personal data of third persons is exempt from disclosure	Legal Structure Chart and names
20585	Kane	The information that you requested concerning legal advice that HFI sought or received in relation to the reduction of allowances is	Information relation to Taverner & Peckett Square Tenant Management Organisation

		exempt from disclosure under Section 42, Legal Professional Privilege, of the Act. Also a fees notice was issued and payment received.	
24437	Nicholas	We can not provide the addresses of these properties as it is exempt under s43 Commercial Interests	Addresses of empty properties in Islington
24440	Belcher	We can not provide the addresses of these properties as it is exempt under s43 Commercial Interests	Addresses of empty properties in Islington
24448	Vil	We can not provide the addresses of these properties as it is exempt under s43 Commercial Interests	Addresses of empty properties in Islington
25728	Byrne	Exemptions: section 40, Personal Information, section 42, Legal Professional Privilege, and section 43, Commercial Interest.	minutes of meetings of the High Value Repair Panel
20483	Hopkins	Fees notice sent out, 3 months to reply with payment	Copy of the PFI 1 Contract
14686	Radway	Fees notice sent out, 3 months to reply with payment	Copy of the PFI 1 Contract

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	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July-Sept	Oct – December
0	0	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	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July-Sept	Oct – December
1 new case 7 for same period last year	3 new cases 11 for the same period last year	3 new cases 11 for the same period last year.	1 new case 5 for the same period last year.

Outstanding Cases

Number of Outstanding cases is 12 and 2 multiple claims - (Pensions 58 individual claims and Equal Pay Homecarers 48 Claimants).

During the period October to December 2004 there were 22 claims and 2 multiple claims outstanding - (Pensions 24 Claimants and Equal Pay Homecarers 48 Claimants).

Disposed of Cases

Number of cases disposed of is 0. 3 cases were disposed of during the period October to December 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	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	January – March	April – June	July-Sept	Oct – December
	14	12	16	27
- Benefit	1	3	3	2
- Other housing	10	6	11	15
- Environment & Conservation	3	2	1	5
- Finance	-	1	-	-
- Social Services	-	-	1	-
- Education/CEA	-	-	-	1
- Council Tax	-	-	-	4

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	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	January – March	April-June	July-Sept	Oct – December
Complaints settled	15	15	19	4 **
Total number where compensation paid:	6	6	14	0
- Benefit	4	3	4	-
- Other Housing	2	3	8	-
- Social Services	-	-	1	-
- Finance	-	-	1	-

Ombudsman maladministration cases

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

** It should be noted that during the last two months there has been a backlog in the Ombudsman's London office and this may account for the smaller number of cases being closed. Islington cases are now being dealt with by the Coventry office.

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 Corporate Resources Date

Received by
Head of Democratic Services Date

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