



**Report of:** Director of Corporate Resources

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Standards	21 Oct. 2008	7	

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt
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## **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 and third quarters of 2008 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**

##### **2007**

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

##### **2008**

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

## Objections to the Council's Accounts

2007

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct – December
0	0	1 Dr.Sharpley	0

2008

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct – December
1 Dr. Sharpley	1 Dr. Sharpley	0	

## Referrals to and Investigations undertaken by the Standards Board for England

2007

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct – December
1	0	0	1
			Allegation concerning misuse of Council resources in the publication of the Islington Now Magazine. The Standards Board decided not to refer the matter to an Ethical Standards officer for investigation.

2008

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

## Number of Whistleblowing Incidents reported

2007

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct - December
0	0	0	1
			Relates to the award of a contract. Initially sent to a third party who forwarded it to the Council. Currently being investigated by Internal Audit.

**2008**

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct – December
0	0	2 One relates to immigration status of an officer and the other relates to falsification of time sheets. Both cases currently being investigated.	

**Number of challenges to procurements****2007**

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

**2008**

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

**Disciplinary action relating to breaches of the Member/Officer Protocol****2007**

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

**2008**

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

**Disciplinary action relating to fraud****2007**

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

**2008**

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

**Freedom of Information Act Indicators**

**2007**

Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July – September		October - December	
Total number of requests received within this quarter	105	Total number of requests received within this quarter	94
No of requests compliant within this quarter	87	No of requests compliant within this quarter	69
Non compliant requests within this quarter	36	Non compliant requests within this quarter	30
No of requests still open and within the 20 working days	14 open	No of requests still open and within the 20 working days	0
Number withheld due to exemptions/fees applied	4	Number withheld due to exemptions/fees applied	9

**2008**

Quarter 2		Quarter 3	
April - June		July - September	
Total number of requests received within this quarter	180	Total number of requests received within this quarter	184
No of requests compliant within this quarter	108	No of requests compliant within this quarter	139
Non compliant requests within this quarter	50	Non compliant requests within this quarter	44
Number of requests still open and within the 20 working days	0	Number of requests still open and within the 20 working days	36
Number withheld due to exemptions/fees applied	11	Number withheld due to exemptions/fees applied	11

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

**2008**

**Quarter 2 – April – June 2008**

Request number:	Type of requestor	Disclosure Type	Exemptions applied	Original request
176141	Member of public	Partial disclosure	s. 42 Legal professional privilege	Documents related to the validity of penalty charge notices
176174	Member of public	Refusal	s. 17 Refusal	1) Please provide details of the amount of money that the Council

Request number:	Type of requestor	Disclosure Type	Exemptions applied	Original request
				<p>spent on alcohol during 2006 and during 2007.</p> <p>2) Please provide details of the amount of money that the Council spent on fireworks during 2006 and during 2007.</p> <p>3) Please provide details of the amount of money that the Council spent on paper during 2006 and during 2007.</p>
176195	Member of public	Fully exempt	s.41 Information provided in confidence	<p>I am making the following request under the Freedom of Information Act. I require the following details: Name Last known address, Date of birth, Date of death and estimated size of estate For any persons who have died since March 2007 in your local authority area and whose details you have passed onto either the Treasury Solicitor, Duchy of Lancaster/Cornwall and the QLTR (in Scotland). The information I am requesting is normally kept by social services or departments such as environmental protection and bereavement services. It is not available from the office of birth, marriage and deaths.</p>
178013	Legal firm	Partial disclosure	s.22 Information intended for future publication s.41 for information provided in confidence	<p>Correspondence regarding an enforcement action to secure a compulsory purchase order in respect of 150 Mercers Road, London, N19 4PX</p> <p>All information you hold relating to the proposed compulsory purchase proceedings and any other enforcement action (eg planning), which shall include any expressions of opinion and email correspondence,</p>
178550	Member of public	Partial disclosure	s.41 for information provided in confidence	<p>97 Thorpedale Road London N4 3BQ</p> <p>I understand that you have made several visits to the above property, as owner I would like to request a copy of the file and any related documents and notes to be sent to me at the said same address.</p> <p>This includes any form of communication made between us before file closure.</p> <p>Thank you and sorry for any inconvenience this puts you through.</p>

Request number:	Type of requestor	Disclosure Type	Exemptions applied	Original request
181032	National media (BBC)	Partial disclosure	s.12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit	Has the Council used covert surveillance in the last 2 years? If so, for what purpose and under which power eg Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000? How much did each operation cost and what was the outcome of each operation?
182855	Member of public	Fully exempt	s22 Information intended for future publication s.43 Commercial interest	<p>Re. Major Works Programme C41 Colinsdale, Camden Walk, London N1 8DZ Freedom of Information Act 2000</p> <p>A copy of the full specification relating to the Colinsdale Estate together with the tender invitations in order that our professional advisors can cost for the works on a like for like basis.</p> <p>I understand that at the present time you do not have the returned tender documents, in due course I would expect to receive copies of the same.</p> <p>You will note that I head this letter "Freedom of Information Act 2000" (the Act). I am advised that, as a Body Corporate set up pursuant to the local Government Act, HFI is subject to the Act and as such I would ask that you consider this letter as a formal request for the documents required, pursuant to the provisions of the Act.</p>
183777	Member of public	Fully exempt	s.12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit	A request for the full accounts of the Andover Estate.
186097	Local press	Partial disclosure	s. 40 Personal information	Islington legal costs and compensation for court cases.
187350	Trade Union	Partial disclosure	s. 40 Personal information	All interview transcripts/minutes from the stage 1 of this process for [deleted person's name] grievance procedure.
189109	Member of public	Fully exempt	s.41 for information provided in confidence	Personal details of a deceased client of ASS

Quarter 3: July – September 2008

Request number:	Type of requestor	Disclosure Type	Exemptions applied	Original request
190564	Local press	Partial disclosure	s.12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit	How many properties did the council own but no longer own due to adverse possession  Please could you tell me how many homes/properties the council owned but has lost due to adverse possession over the past five years. For each please could you give me an address, tell me how much the property was last valued at and how much the council spent in legal costs.
191359	Local press	Partial disclosure	s.41 for information provided in confidence	I would like to see all documents, emails, meeting minutes and correspondence relating to the sale of 393 St John Street
191360	Legal firm	Partial disclosure	s. 40 Personal information	Requestor would like copies of 'the file' for 13 Mountview Road, including any notices served under the Housing Act 2004, letters from and to the landlord of the property and any other 'relevant correspondence'.
192108	MP's researcher	Fully exempt	s.12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit	a) "How many children were placed by your authority with "States of Jersey"? b) Of those how many (if known) were placed at Haut de la Garenne? c) Of the children placed with "states of Jersey", for how many is it unknown what happened to them after that placement or were identified as having absconded from that placement.
197507		Partial disclosure	s. 40 Personal information	Do you have or had an employee with the name of <i>[deleted for DPA purposes]</i> ? If yes is he still working for you? When did he left and the reason for leaving. Was he subject to any disciplinary proceedings? If he worked for you, was he asked to resign? If he is not working for you, did he worked for any of your contractor eg TSG? How long he worked for? The reason he left. request under the Freedom of Information
197777	Research company	Partial disclosure	s.12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit	Questions relating to the provision of home care for adults who have an acquired brain injury (ABI).

<b>Request number:</b>	<b>Type of requestor</b>	<b>Disclosure Type</b>	<b>Exemptions applied</b>	<b>Original request</b>
198607	Legal firm	Fully exempt	s.17 Refusal of request s.41 for information provided in confidence	<p>1. number of funerals which you have dealt with since 1st March 2008 where no known kin have been identified</p> <p>2. full name of the deceased in each case</p> <p>3. date and place of birth</p> <p>4. date of death</p> <p>5. last known address of the deceased.</p> <p>In cases where the deceased has left assets, we understand that it may be possible to trace next of kin and thereafter administer the estate in less than 12 months. This means that you will be refunded expenses quickly and unoccupied properties will not sit empty unnecessarily for long periods of time. Our aim is to protect the estate assets and distribute the funds to the beneficiaries under the intestacy rules as soon as practically possible.</p>
200268	Member of the public	Partial disclosure	s.41 for information provided in confidence	I should like copies of correspondence, documents and meeting notes concerning dog control orders during the period 1 January 2008 to 11 July 2008
201863	Local press	Partial disclosure	s.12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit	<p>I am requesting to know, in the year 2007-2008:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* How many trips out of London have been organised for Islington council staff or officers</li> <li>* What was the purpose of the trip - i.e. fact finding, for a conference etc</li> <li>* What was the destination - city and country</li> <li>* How many staff went on each trip</li> <li>* How long they stayed for</li> <li>* The total cost per person of each trip</li> <li>* The total cost of each flight</li> <li>* The total reclaimed on expenses during each trip</li> <li>* The total cost of each trip including all members and all expenses</li> </ul>
203771	Local press	Partial disclosure	s.12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit	<p>Please can I see a breakdown of all air travel purchased by your council in the last two years with a breakdown of information that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- destinations of the purchased flights,</li> <li>- name of the officer or councillor who travelled - redacted where necessary</li> <li>- the cost of each flight</li> <li>- the company the flights were booked with.</li> </ul>



<b>Request number:</b>	<b>Type of requestor</b>	<b>Disclosure Type</b>	<b>Exemptions applied</b>	<b>Original request</b>
205254	Business	Partial disclosure	s.12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit	<p>In your letter dated 20th May 2008 (ref: NAW CoP) you advised us that in 2007 "over 2500 complaints from residents who were disturbed by noise" had been received by yourselves. We presume a pro-rata or even increased number has been received during the first seven months of 2008.</p> <p>We hereby apply to you under The Freedom of Information Act 2000 to provide from your records (1) for the year 2007 and separately (2) for the first seven months of 2008</p> <p>(i) a division of the numbers of complaints made against residential and commercial properties  (ii) a list of those properties holding Premises Licenses under the Licensing Act 2003  (iii) the names and addresses of each of those properties holding Premises Licenses as at (ii) above  (iv) the number of individual complaints against each of the properties disclosed at (ii &amp; iii) above  (v) a list of action taken by the Council pursuant to such complaints against premises disclosed at (iii) above and the results of such action  (vi) a list of abatement notices served against properties above holding premises licenses  (vii) copies of all internal memoranda, notes or records relating to (iii) above and first seven months of 2008</p>

**Industrial Action taken or notified**

**2007**

<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<b>January – March</b>	<b>April – June</b>	<b>July – Sept</b>	<b>Oct – December</b>
0	0	0	0

## 2008

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July – Sept	Oct – December
0	0	2 Industrial action taken on 16 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> July with regards to national pay negotiations. 200 employees participated on both days (full and part-timers). Further industrial action has been called off pending discussions at national level.	

### Number of Employment Tribunals received

## 2007

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct - December
8 new cases 5 for same period last year	7 new cases 5 for the same period last year	4 new cases 9 for the same period last year	4 new cases 4 for the same period last year

## 2008

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July - Sept	Oct – December
6 new cases 8 for same period last year	3 New Cases 7 for the same period last year	5 New Cases 4 for the same period last year	

### Outstanding Cases

Number of Outstanding cases is 31 and 3 multiple claims - (Pensions 55 individual pension claims, 48 Equal Pay Homecarers Claimants and 7 Midday Meal Supervisors claiming Equal Pay).

30 outstanding cases and 2 multiple claims for same period last year.

### Disposed of Cases

Number of cases disposed is 2 (1 case was won and 1 was withdrawn).

3 cases were disposed of for the same period last year.

## Type of cases received

Of the 5 cases brought against the Council this quarter, there were 4 claims of race discrimination, 1 claim of equal pay, 1 claim of age discrimination and 2 claims of sex discrimination.

## Number of New Ombudsman complaints received

**2007**

	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
	<b>January – March</b>	<b>April – June</b>	<b>July- Sept</b>	<b>Oct - Dec</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>
- Adult Services	1	1		
- Childrens services	1			0
- Environment & Regeneration	2	2	2	0
- Finance	3	2	2	1
- Homes for Islington	12	5		7
- Housing Performance & Property	3	4		
- Corporate Resources		1	1	0
- Customer Focus		1	3	1
- Other	3			
- Housing and Adult Social Services				3

**2008**

	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>
	<b>January – March</b>	<b>April – June</b>	<b>July - September</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>
- Adult Services	2	0	0
- Childrens services	0	0	0
- Environment & Regeneration	4	1	2
- Finance	1	1	1
- Homes for Islington (incl. PFI)	15	12	7
- Housing Performance & Property	0	0	0
- Corporate Resources	0	0	0
- Customer Focus	0	0	0
- Other	0	0	0
- Housing and Adult Social Services	0	0	0

## Number of Ombudsman complaints settled

2007

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	January – March	April – June	July-Sept	Oct - Dec
<b>Complaints settled</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>
Total no. where compensation paid:	4	10	4	4
- Childrens Services	1			0
- Environment & Regeneration	3			0
- Finance	1		1	0
- Homes for Islington	6	7	1	2
- Housing, Perf. & Property	3	3		
- Customer Focus			2	0
- Housing and Adult Social Services				1
- Corporate Resources				1

2008

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
	January – March	April – June	July - September
<b>Complaints settled</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>
Total no. where compensation paid:	1	4	0
- Childrens Services	0	0	0
- Environment & Regeneration	0	1	0
- Finance	0	1	0
- Homes for Islington (incl. PFI)	1	2	0
- Housing, Perf. & Property	0	0	0
- Customer Focus	0	0	0
- Housing and Adult Social Services	0	0	0
- Corporate Resources	0	0	0

### Ombudsman maladministration cases

There was 1 maladministration report issued against the Council (in August) by the Ombudsman during these quarters.

Please note: the figures for September may change slightly if the Ombudsman forwards updated information over the next couple of weeks.

## **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

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Director of Corporate Resources

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Date

Received by

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Head of Democratic Services

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Date

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