



Report of: Director of Corporate Resources

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Standards	4 th February 2010	8	

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt

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 of 2009 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

2008

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

2009

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

Objections to the Council's Accounts

2008

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July – Sept	Oct – December
1 Dr. Sharpley	1 Dr. Sharpley *Audit Commission wrote on 10./12/08 to Dr. Sharpley rejecting her objections.	0	0

2009

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

Referrals to and Investigations undertaken by the Standards Board for England

2008

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

2009

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

Complaints submitted to the Initial Assessment Sub-Committee

2008

Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
May – June	July – Sept	Oct – December
0	2 First complaint was referred to the Monitoring Officer for Investigation but subsequently no further action was taken as an apology was offered.	1 No further action was taken on the complaint which was then considered by the Review Sub-Committee on 11 th December who also decided to take no further action
	Second complaint – the Monitoring Officer was asked to take alternative action.	

2009

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

Number of Whistleblowing Incidents reported

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.	2 One case relates to shift allowance of an employee and the other complaint relates to use of work van for personal use.

2009

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
January – March	April – June	July – Sept	Oct – December
0	0	0	1 Relates to a complaint of alleged bullying, harassment and financial irregularities

Number of challenges to procurements**2008**

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

2009

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**2008**

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

2009

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**2008**

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

2009

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

2008

Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July – September		October – December	
Total number of requests received within this quarter	184	Total number of requests received within this quarter	181
Number of requests compliant within this quarter	139	Number of requests compliant within this quarter	136
Non compliant requests within this quarter	44	Non compliant requests within this quarter	40
Number of requests still open and within the 20 working days	36	Number of requests still open and within the 20 working days	47
Number withheld due to exemptions/fees applied	11	Number withheld due to exemptions/fees applied	5

2009

Quarter 1		Quarter 2	
January – March		April – June 2009	
Total number of requests received within this quarter	219	Total number of requests received within this quarter	210
No of requests compliant within this quarter	166	No of requests compliant within this quarter	157
Non compliant requests within this quarter	48	Non compliant requests within this quarter	49
No of requests still open and within the 20 working days	54	No of requests still open and within the 20 working days	0
Number withheld due to exemptions/fees applied	23	Number withheld due to exemptions/fees applied	15

Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
July – September 2009		October to December 2009	
Total number of requests received within this quarter	233	Total number of requests received within this quarter	280
No of requests compliant within this quarter	175	No of requests compliant within this quarter	211
Non compliant requests within this quarter	67	Non compliant requests within this quarter	45
No of requests still open and within the 20 working days	45	No of requests still open and within the 20 working days	66
Number withheld due to exemptions/fees applied	13	Number withheld due to exemptions/fees applied	16

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

Quarter: October to December 2009

Request number:	Type of requestor	Disclosure Type	Exemptions applied	Original request
284952	Media	Partial disclosure	Section 40 'Personal information'	Statistics around successful ASBO applications.
285165	Business	Partial disclosure	Section 12 'Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit' / Section 40 'Personal information'	Information relating to unclaimed Credit Balances in the council area.
287210	Media	Partial disclosure	Section 40 'Personal information'	The number of union representatives employed by the council who, for all or part of their week, work on trade union activities, rather than council duties.
287918	Member of the public	Fully exempt	Section 40 'Personal information'	Details of a specific pension overpayment.
289406	Member of the public	Fully exempt	Section 21 'Information accessible to applicant by other means.'	Questions around the maintenance of listed buildings in the borough.
289421	Member of the public	Fully exempt	Section 40 'Personal information' / Section 31 'Law Enforcement'	Addresses of long term empty residential properties in Islington Council.
290172	Member of the public	Partial disclosure	Section 40 'Personal information' / Section 41 'Information provided in confidence'	All reported incidents on Claremont Close Estate.
290867	Member of the public	Fully exempt	Section 40 'Personal information' / Section 31 'Law Enforcement'	A list of all residential properties owned by the council, including those currently occupied and unoccupied.
292999	Member of the public	Partial disclosure	Section 40 'Personal information' / Section 31 'Law Enforcement'	The address of every property which in 2008 has been the subject of a prohibition order, a demolition order or emergency remedial action as defined in the Housing Act 2004.
293180	Member of the public	Fully exempt	Section 40 'Personal information'	Documents submitted to the council around a specific piece of structural work.

Request number:	Type of requestor	Disclosure Type	Exemptions applied	Original request
293181	Member of the public	Partial disclosure	Section 41 'Information provided in confidence'/ Section 43 'Commercial interests'.	Costs and figures around the council's legal department.
294175	Member of the public	Fully exempt	Section 21 'Information accessible to applicant by other means.'	A list of properties in Branston House (N7 7BS) and also Rollit House (N7 7BT) which are leaseholder properties.
294575	Media	Partial disclosure	Section 40 'Personal information'	Consultant spend for Human Resources work.
295292	Member of the public	Partial disclosure	Section 40 'Personal information'	Questions around the council's anti-bullying procedures.
295981	Media	Partial disclosure	Section 12 'Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit'	A copy of the council's spend analysis/invoice report for the last 12 months
297517	Business	Partial disclosure	Section 43 'Commercial interests'.	Copy of the procurement process that Islington Council followed late 2003/early 2004, which resulted in Comensura winning the Vendor Neutral System contract.

Industrial Action taken or notified

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 th and 17 th 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.	0

2009

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

2008

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

2009

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

Outstanding Cases

Number of outstanding cases is 18 and 2 multiple claims - (Pensions 26 individual pension claims , 20 Equal Pay Homecarers Claimants.).

31 outstanding cases and 3 multiple claims for same period last year.

Disposed of Cases

Number of cases disposed is 1 (settled).

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

Type of cases received

Of the 4 cases brought against the Council this quarter, there were 1 claim of unfair dismissal, 2 of disability discrimination, 1 of age discrimination, 1 of redundancy payment.

Number of New Ombudsman complaints received

2008

	Quarter 1 January – March	Quarter 2 April – June	Quarter 3 July - September	Quarter 4 October- December
Total	22	14	10	8
- Corporate Resources	0	0	0	0
- Childrens services	0	0	0	1
- Environment & Regeneration	4	1	2	0
- Finance	1	1	1	1
- Homes for Islington (incl. PFI)	15	12	7	6
- Housing & Adult Social Services	2	0	0	0
- Other	0	0	0	0

2009

Number of New Ombudsman complaints received

	Quarter 1 January – March	Quarter 2 April – June	Quarter 3 July - September	Quarter 4 October- December
Total	9	11	17	8
- Corporate Resources	0	0	0	0
- Childrens Services	0	0	0	0
- Environment & Regeneration	2	0	3	1
- Finance	1	0	1	2
- Homes for Islington (incl. PFI)	4	8	5	3
- Housing & Adult Social Services	2	3	8	2
- Other	0	0	0	0

Number of Ombudsman complaints settled

2008

	Quarter 1 January – March	Quarter 2 April – June	Quarter 3 July - September	Quarter 4 October- December
Complaints settled	8	10	6	5
Total no. where compensation paid:	1	4	0	2
- Corporate Resources	0	0	0	0
- Childrens Services	0	0	0	0
- Environment & Regeneration	0	1	0	0
- Finance	0	1	0	0
- Homes for Islington (incl. PFI)	1	2	0	2
- Housing and Adult Social Services	0	0	0	0
- Other	0	0	0	0

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	January – March	April – June	July - September	October-December
Complaints settled	2	6	7	9
Total no. where compensation paid:	0	0	3	5 (2-HFI/Partners, 3-HASS)
- Corporate Resources	0	0		0
- Childrens Services	0	0		0
- Environment & Regeneration	0	0	2	1
- Finance	0	1		0
- Homes for Islington (incl. PFI)	0	4	3	2
- Housing and Adult Social Services	0	1	2	6
- Other	0	0	0	0

Ombudsman maladministration cases

There were no maladministration reports issued against the Council during the period January to December 2009

Please note: the figures for Q4 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

Director of Corporate Resources

Date

Received by

Head of Service – Democratic Services

Date

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