



ISLINGTON

Law and Public Services
Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD

Report of : Director of Law and Public Services

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Standards	23rd June 2003	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 and comment as appropriate.

3. Background

3.1 The Committee, at their last meeting, requested officers to produce a quarterly report which pulled together existing information which would help give members an indication of the health of the authority in relation to Standards and Ethics.

3.2 The information and indicators for the period January-March 2003 is set out below:

District Audit Public Interest Reports

None

Objections to the Council's Accounts

One relating to Mr. Pat McCann in relation to the 2001/2002 accounts.

Referrals to and Investigations undertaken by the Standards Board for England

The Monitoring Officer is aware of five cases which individuals have referred to the Standards Board.

One relates back to May 2002 with reference to remarks made by one Liberal Democrat councillor after a Council meeting to a member of the public. No further action has been taken by the Board on the matter and the councillor subsequently wrote a letter of apology to the member of the public concerned.

Another case relates to August 2002 with reference to the appointment of the Chief Executive and the interview and selection process. This is still being investigated by the Board and the latest information is that they hope to produce their findings shortly.

The latest three relate to two Liberal Democrat councillors who were complained of due to not replying to a residents' letter about the Arthur Simpson Library and the other related to information included in the Council Tax leaflet. The Board have advised they will not be taking any further action on any of the above three complaints.

Number of Whistleblowing Incidents reported

None.

Number of challenges to procurements

None

Industrial Action taken or notified

Selective industrial action taken in two schools as part of Unison action in respect of the London Weighting claim:

- 1 Primary School where 11 staff took action
- 1 Special School where 19 staff took action.

There is an ongoing programme of rolling strikes that are affecting most boroughs in London and Unison targets a different service in each borough. In terms of the schools mentioned it is the administrative staff that are affected rather than teaching staff who had their claim for London Weighting recognised in recent pay awards.

Number of Employment Tribunals received and settled

See attached.

Number of New Ombudsman Complaints received and settled

Number of new Ombudsman complaints received 41

- Benefit 21
- Other Housing 16
- Environment & Conservation 3
- Finance 1

Number of Ombudsman complaints settled 46

Total number where compensation paid 26

- Benefit 20
- Other Housing 6

4. Implications

4.1 Finance Implications

Any financial payments made as a result of cases will be met from within existing budgets.

4.2 Legal Implications

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 Law and Public Services

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Date

Received by

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Head of Scrutiny and Democratic Services

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Date

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