



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	8 th Sept. 2003	5	

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 to June 2003, and comment as appropriate.

3. Background

3.1 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.

3.2 The information and indicators for the period April to June 2003 are set out below:

District Audit Public Interest Reports

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

Objections to the Council's Accounts

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
January – March	April – June
1	Objection from Q1 withdrawn

Referrals to and Investigations undertaken by the Standards Board for England

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
January – March	April – June
5	Of the 5 from Q1 no further action being taken by the Standards Board on 4 of the cases. 1 case still being investigated 3 new cases in Q2. The Standards Board have advised no breach of the Code and no action in 2 of the cases.

Number of Whistleblowing Incidents reported

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
January – March	April – June
0	2 – 1 relating to Housing and 1 in Education – both still being investigated by the Monitoring Officer.

Number of challenges to procurements

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

Industrial Action taken or notified

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
January – March	April – June
Selective industrial action taken as part of Unison action in respect of London Weighting claim – 1 Primary School – 11 staff 1 Special School – 19 staff	Ongoing industrial action as part of Unison claim – 9 schools – 228 staff Approved social workers – 108 staff

Number of Employment Tribunals received and settled

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
January – March	April – June
12 new cases (3 Housing 1 Soc. Services, 1 Finance & Property Services, 4 Environ. And Conservation, 2 Regeneration and Education and 1 CEA) For the comparable period last year the Council received 13 new cases.	10 new cases (1 Housing, 5 Regeneration & Education, 4 Soc. Services) For the comparable period last year the Council received 5 new cases.

Outstanding Cases

The number of outstanding tribunal cases as at 30th June was 25. These figures do not include the multiple cases set out below.

Three sets of multiple cases have been brought against the Council: There are 38 part-timer pension claims, 48 home-carer equal pay claims and 14 applicants have brought 46 claims in Social Services for sex discrimination and breach of contract.

Comments of the Director of Law and Public Services

The level of ET claims does not give rise to any specific concerns and it is not possible to identify any particular department where the practice is poor. Nor does it highlight any trends in respect of types of claims. The total number of tribunal cases brought last year was 39.

Number of New Ombudsman complaints received and settled

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
	January – March	April – June
	41	38
- Benefit	21	9
- Other housing	16	25
- Environment & Conservation	3	1
- Finance	1	1
- Social Services	-	1
- Education	-	1

Number of Ombudsman complaints settled

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2
	January – March	April – June
	46	51
Total number where compensation paid	26	30
- Benefit	20	20
- Other Housing	6	7
- Education	-	1
- Environment & Conservation	-	2

4. Benchmarking Information

- 4.1 It does not appear that other standards committees in London collect such standards and ethics indicators. The Head of Scrutiny and Democratic Services will be circulating a questionnaire to all London boroughs to try and help gather such benchmark information.
- 4.2 The list of probity questions used by District Audit when carrying out their reviews are set out in Appendix A for Members information.

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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