



# 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  | 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2005 | 6           |         |

| 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 third quarter, July-Sept 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 |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|
| January – March | April – June | July-Sept |
| 0               | 0            | 0         |

## **Objections to the Council's Accounts**

**2004**

| <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 - September</b> | <b>Oct-December</b> |
| 0                      | 0                   | 1                       | 0                   |

**2005**

| <b>Quarter 1</b>       | <b>Quarter 2</b>  | <b>Quarter 3</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>January – March</b> | <b>April-June</b> | <b>July-Sept</b> |
| 0                      | 0                 | 1                |

In relation to the objection to the accounts reported in Quarter 3 for 2004, the Council are still awaiting the outcome from the District Auditor.

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

**2004**

| <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 - September</b> | <b>Oct - December</b> |
| 0                      | 0                   | 0                       | 0                     |

**2005**

| <b>Quarter 1</b>       | <b>Quarter 2</b>  | <b>Quarter 3</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>January – March</b> | <b>April-June</b> | <b>July-Sept</b> |
| 3                      | 2                 | 0                |

## **Number of Whistleblowing Incidents reported**

**2004**

| <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 - September</b> | <b>Oct - December</b> |
| 1                      | 0                   | 0                       | 1                     |

**2005**

| <b>Quarter 1</b>       | <b>Quarter 2</b>  | <b>Quarter 3</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>January – March</b> | <b>April-June</b> | <b>July-Sept</b> |
| 0                      | 3                 | 1                |

There has been an anonymous complaint about a number of different issues in relation to the Council Tax Office which is currently being investigated.

**Number of challenges to procurements**

**2004**

| <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 - September</b> | <b>Oct - December</b> |
| 0                      | 0                   | 0                       | 0                     |

**2005**

| <b>Quarter 1</b>       | <b>Quarter 2</b>  | <b>Quarter 3</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>January – March</b> | <b>April-June</b> | <b>July-Sept</b> |
| 0                      | 0                 | 0                |

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

**2004**

| <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 - September</b> | <b>Oct - December</b> |
| -                      | -                   | -                       | 0                     |

**2005**

| <b>Quarter 1</b>       | <b>Quarter 2</b>  | <b>Quarter 3</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>January – March</b> | <b>April-June</b> | <b>July-Sept</b> |
| 0                      | 0                 | 0                |

**Disciplinary action relating to fraud**

**2004**

| <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 - September</b> | <b>Oct - December</b> |
| -                      | -                   | -                       | 0                     |

**2005**

| <b>Quarter 1</b>       | <b>Quarter 2</b>    | <b>Quarter 3</b> |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| <b>January – March</b> | <b>April – June</b> | <b>July-Sept</b> |
| 0                      | 0                   | 0                |

## Freedom of Information Act Indicators

| <b>Quarter 1</b>                  |  | <b>Quarter 2</b>                  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>January – March</b>            |  | <b>April – June</b>               |  |
| Total number of requests received | 100  | Total number of requests received | 103  |
| No. of requests closed            | 53<br>20 of which were outside of the deadline           | No. of requests closed            | 72<br>26 of which were outside of the deadline |
| No. of requests outstanding       | 47<br>29 beyond deadline, 11 of which were for contracts | No. of requests outstanding       | 31   |

| <b>Quarter 3</b>                             |   |
|--|---|
| <b>July – September</b>                      |   |
| Total number of requests received            | 51  |
| No. of requests closed                       | 35<br>(7 of which were outside of the deadline) |
| No. of requests outstanding                  | 5   |
| No. of requests open (still within deadline) | 11  |

## 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 |

| Request number:  | Surname of requestor | Exemptions applied   | Original request  |
|------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| 1339<br>2005/005 | Boyle                | Commercial sensitivity outweighs public interest in disclosure exempt under section 43 of the FOIA   | Scholarest<br>Withheld info = quality reports and break down of payments.   |
| 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 Scolarest. |
| 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  |

**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 |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|
| January – March | April – June | July-Sept |
| 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<br>13 for same period last year | 11 new cases<br>10 for the same period last year | 10 new cases<br>8 for the same period last year | 5 new cases<br>11 for the same period last year |

**2005**

| Quarter 1                                 | Quarter 2                                       | Quarter 3  |
|---|---|--|
| January – March                           | April – June                                    | July-Sept  |
| 1 new case<br>7 for same period last year | 3 new cases<br>11 for the same period last year | 3 new cases<br>11 for the same period last year. |

## **Outstanding Cases**

Number of Outstanding cases is 14 and 2 multiple claims - (Pensions 18 Claimants and Equal Pay Homecarers 48 Claimants). During the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to June 2004 there were 22 claims and 2 multiple claims outstanding - (Pensions 27 Claimants and Equal Pay Homecarers 48 Claimants).

## **Disposed of Cases**

Number of cases disposed of is 3. 9 cases were disposed of during the period July to September 2004.

## **Number of New Ombudsman complaints received**

### **2004**

|                              | <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 - September</b> | <b>Oct – December</b> |
|                              | 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**

|                              | <b>Quarter 1</b>       | <b>Quarter 2</b>    | <b>Quarter 3</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|                              | <b>January – March</b> | <b>April – June</b> | <b>July-Sept</b> |
|                              | 14                     | 12                  | 16               |
| - Benefit                    | 1                      | 3                   | 3                |
| - Other housing              | 10                     | 6                   | 11               |
| - Environment & Conservation | 3                      | 2                   | 1                |
| - Finance                    | -                      | 1                   | -                |
| - Social Services            | -                      | -                   | 1                |

## **Number of Ombudsman complaints settled**

**2004**

|                                      | <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 – September</b> | <b>Oct – December</b> |
|                                      | 38                     | 30                  | 36                      | 22<br>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**

|                                       | <b>Quarter 1</b>       | <b>Quarter 2</b>  | <b>Quarter 3</b> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
|                                       | <b>January – March</b> | <b>April-June</b> | <b>July-Sept</b> |
| Complaints settled                    | 15                     | 15                | 19               |
| Total number where compensation paid: | 6                      | 6                 | 14               |
| - 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.

## **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

-----  
Head of Scrutiny and Democratic Services

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Date

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