

**London Borough of Islington
Standards Committee – 20 September 2013**

Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 20 September 2013

Present: Councillors Allan, Davis and Alice Perry

James Woolf, Independent Person also in attendance as an observer.

Councillor Alice Perry in the Chair

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)

None

2 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item 2)

None

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

None

4 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS (Item 4)

RESOLVED:

That the Press and Public be excluded from the following item on the agenda as it would disclose exempt or confidential information within the terms of the Access to Information Procedure notes set out under paragraph 1 of Appendix 5 of the Constitution.

5 COMPLAINT AGAINST A COUNCILLOR (Item 5)

The Monitoring Officer introduced the item concerning the three complaints listed in the report.

In considering whether there should be an investigation of all or any of the complaints against the councillor, the committee began by considering whether the Council Code of Conduct applied to the councillor in respect of the activities complained.

In relation to the first complaint the committee noted that

- (a) the email was not sent from the councillor's council email but from a Hotmail account;
- (b) the email did not include a sign off statement or name but did refer in its body to information being sought "as a trade union official";
- (c) the email appears to refer to the GMB as "we".

In relation to the second and third complaints, the committee noted

- (a) the same three points as set out above;
- (b) the second article by the complainant included the statement that the member made it clear they were acting in their role as a trades union representative, not as a councillor;

- (c) the email exchange between the complainant and the member did not use the councillor's council email address;
- (d) the site front page set out in Appendix 6 referred to the members role as a trade unionist.

After discussion and a vote the Committee

RESOLVED:

That no action should be taken in respect of the complaint as the Committee considered the Code of Conduct did not apply in respect of the activities complained of as the member was acting in his capacity as a trade unionist, or in some other private capacity, rather than as a councillor.

The meeting which started at 7.30 p.m. ended at 7.55 p.m.

CHAIR

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