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London Borough of Islington

Standards Committee - Monday, 9 January 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held at Committee Room 4, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on Monday, 9 January 2023 at 7.00 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Khurana (Chair), Gill and Jackson

Also Present: **Independent Person** Luke Rigg

Investigating Officer Sonal Mistry

Monitoring Officer Marie Rosenthal

The subject member and their representative were also present and a number of witnesses attended to give evidence during the exempt session. These details are exempt from publication under Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Section 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Councillor Anjna Khurana in the Chair

1 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR (ITEM NO.)**

The interim Monitoring Officer requested that the committee members nominate a chair.

Councillor Gill moved a motion that Councillor Khurana act as Chair.
Councillor Jackson seconded.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Khurana be appointed as Chair for the duration of this meeting was agreed.

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM NO. 1)**

Councillor Khurana noted that Councillor Hyde, the appointed Chair of the committee, had recused herself from the committee for the duration of this meeting and that there were no apologies for absence.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM NO. 2)**

None.

4 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (ITEM NO. 3)**

Councillor Khurana moved a motion to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the proceedings in accordance with paragraph 88 of the Access to Information rules in Part 4 of the Constitution and Paragraph 1 of Section 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Councillor Khurana asked if the member who is the subject of the complaint had any views and it was confirmed that the member's view was that the

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remainder of the meeting should be exempt.

Councillor Khurana sought the views of the Investigating Officer and the Interim Monitoring Officer.

The Investigating Officer, supported by the Interim Monitoring Officer, stated that the subject of the meeting clearly relates to an individual and in considering if an exemption under paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, should be applied, Article 8 of the Convention on Human Rights (right to privacy) is engaged, among other Convention rights. No finding of misconduct has yet been made, and disclosure of the councillor's identity and the allegations against them could damage their reputation, even if they are not upheld by the committee. On balance, and considering that the findings of the committee will be made public if the allegations are substantiated, the Investigating Officer recommended that the remainder of the meeting be held in private.

Councillor Khurana moved the motion to a vote.

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the proceedings in accordance with paragraph 88 of the Access to Information rules in Part 4 of the Constitution and Paragraph 1 of Section 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 was agreed.

5 CONFIDENTIAL COMPLAINT HEARING (ITEM NO. 4)

The Committee meeting entered exempt session with the following attendees present:

Councillor Anjna Khurana, Chair
Councillor Satnam Gill, Committee Member
Councillor Jason Jackson, Committee Member
Marie Rosenthal, Interim Monitoring Officer
Sonal Mistry, Investigation Officer
Luke Rigg, Independent Person
Subject Member
Subject Member's Solicitor
Philippa Green, Committee Clerk

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10.30pm CUT OFF - TO BE RECONVENED.