

**Code of Conduct complaints update**

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Standards Committee</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b> (if applicable)	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Key Decision Eligible for Call In</b>	<b>No No</b>
<b>Purpose of Report</b>  To brief the standards committee on Councillor complaints under the Code of Conduct since the last Standards Committee meeting in September 2025.	
<b>Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the report be noted by members</li> </ul> <b>Reasons for Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The report is for information only</li> </ul>	
<b>Resource Implications:</b>  None	
<b>Date signed off by Executive Director &amp; name</b>   <b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>  <b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	<b>Rachel Spencer-Henshall – 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>   <b>Kevin Mulvaney – 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>  <b>Samantha Lawton – 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>

**Electoral wards affected: All**

**Ward councillors consulted: None**

**Public or private: Public**

**Has GDPR been considered? Yes**

## **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report follows on from the similar report that was before the Standards Committee on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2025.
- 1.2 This report will look at the number of complaints received from the 1st of September 2025 to the end of February 2026, along with their type and nature.
- 1.3 It will also look at which of those new complaints have been resolved and which are still subject to investigation or further action. It will also provide an update on those complaints that were received in the previous reporting period and were not resolved at the time of the previous report.
- 1.4 It will also compare this period's complaints with the previous period, to see if there are any significant differences or trends.

## **2. Information required to take a decision**

### **2.1 Complaints Summary**

- 2.1.1 Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2025 the Monitoring Officer has received 11 complaints relating to alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct.
- 2.1.2 Of these, 5 relate to Kirklees Councillors and 6 relate to Town or Parish councillors. A total of 3 Kirklees councillors have been the subject of complaints, with 7 Town and Parish Councillors complained of.
- 2.1.3 Of these 11, 3 were not pursued, 6 were not progressed after the initial assessment process, with no breaches being found, and 1 was resolved informally. The remaining 1 complaint is still being investigated.

### **2.2 Update on previous complaints**

- 2.2.1 Of the 3 complaints that were carried forward from the previous report as ongoing, these were dealt with by an informal resolution.
- 2.2.2 1 complaints has been carried forward in this reporting period.

## 2.3 Previous Report and comparison with the present report

2.3.1 The previous report, for the period the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2025 to the end of September 2025, contained a total of 11 new complaints that related to 8 named Kirklees Councillors and 1 Town or Parish Councillor. This compares with the current period under review, where there is a total of 11 complaints, with 5 complaints relating to Kirklees Councillors and 6 complaints relating to Town or Parish Councillors. A total of 3 Kirklees members and 7 Town or Parish Council members have been the subject of complaints in this period.

2.3.2 The nature of the complaints in the present report concern social media behaviour (4 complaints relating to 3 members), behaviour in meetings (2 complaints about 1 member), failure to declare interests (1 complaint about 4 members), general behaviour (4 complaints about 3 members).

The sources of the complaints are that 4 were received from members of the public, 6 were received from members and 1 was received from an officer.

2.3.3 Comparing this to the previous report, complaints then concerned social media behaviour (6 complaints relating to 3 members), correspondence (3 complaints about 4 members), failure to comply with sanctions from a previous complaint (1 complaint about 1 member) and 1 was unknown, as it was not pursued by the complainant.

The sources of the complaints were that 10 were received from members of the public, none were received from members and 1 was received from an officer.

2.3.4 Comparison between the two reports shows that the overall number of complaints has stayed the same, at 11. If we extend this to earlier periods, we can see that this appears to be consistent with the general downward trend to the number of complaints being made. Whether or not, in the run up to the elections, we see an upturn in complaints remains to be seen.

In this period the number of Kirklees Councillors complained about has decreased, from 8 to 3, whilst the numbers of Town and Parish Councillors complained of has risen from 1 to 7.

2.3.5 In this period, we have seen 1 instance of a 'multiple' complaint.

2.3.6 The total number of complaints relating to Town or Parish Councils has risen in this reporting period, from 1 to 6.

2.3.7 The number of complaints relating to the planning process remains at 0.

2.3.8 In terms of any discernable trends, the numbers of complaints being made in respect of Kirklees Councillors has fallen, whereas there has been quite a sharp increase in the complaints relating to Town and Parish Councils. So, whilst the overall number of complaints remains the same, the make up of those complaints has shifted towards Town and Parish Councils.

## 2.4 **Published Decisions**

2.4.1 This report now contains a simple summary table that informs members of standards decisions that have been published on the Kirklees website. In line with the decision of the Committee, the published decisions will now only be complaints that have been upheld.

2.4.2 This is a summary only and full details, including copies of the relevant decision notices, remain available on the website.

<b>Council</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Complaint</b>	<b>Date of decision</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Denby Dale Parish Council	Cllr Glenn Hirst	failure to comply with sanctions	27/06/2025	Complaint upheld
Kirklees Council	Cllr Hanifa Darwan	member's behaviour during meetings	23/05/2005	Complaint upheld
Denby Dale Parish Council	Cllr Glenn Hirst	member's use of social media	24/03/2025	Complaint upheld
Kirklees Council	Cllr Ammar Anwar	member's behaviours	10/02/2025	Complaint upheld
Holme Valley Parish Council	Cllr James Dalton	member's use of social media	05/07/2023	Complaint upheld

## 3. **Implications for the Council**

### 3.1 **Council Plan**

N/A

### 3.2 **Financial Implications**

N/A

### **3.3 Legal Implications**

N/A

### **3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality**

N/A

### **3.5 Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)**

N/A

## **4. Consultation**

N/A

## **5. Engagement**

None

## **6. Options**

### **6.1 Options Considered**

It is recommended that the report be noted.

### **6.2 Reasons for Recommended Option**

The report is an 'information-only' report.

## **7. Next steps and timelines**

The Monitoring Officer will continue to assess any complaints about members' conduct as and when they are received and will report the outcomes to this committee as appropriate.

## **8. Contact officer**

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Principal Lawyer  
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## **9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

N/A

## **10. Appendices**

N/A

## **11. Service Director responsible**

Samantha Lawton  
Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning  
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