

# Standards and Ethics

## Quarter 3 Report

2025-2026



# Introduction

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This is the quarterly report to the Audit and Governance Committee detailing both the figures for the Ethical Indicators and the figures for the Local Determination of Complaints process for 2025/26.

For clarification purposes the months covered by the quarters are as follows:

Quarter 1 - 1 April to 30 June

Quarter 2 - 1 July to 30 September

Quarter 3 - 1 October to 31 December

Quarter 4 - 1 January to 31 March

The report covers local determination of complaints, ethical indicators and Freedom of Information requests.

The quarterly reports will enable the Audit and Governance Committee to build up a picture over time of how many complaints are received and any trends where similar incidents are occurring. The parts of the Code of Conduct which have been breached will also be recorded, to enable training to be targeted effectively.

# Local Determination of Complaints

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The Monitoring Officer received one complaint in Quarter 3 of 2025/26 (1 October to 31 December 2025).

One complaint received in Quarter 3 of 2024/25 is still ongoing.

Two complaints received in Quarter 1 of 2025/26 are still ongoing.

One complaint received in Quarter 2 of 2025/26 is still ongoing.

## 2.1 Assessment Sub-committee Decisions

The Monitoring Officer pursues an informal dispute resolution process prior to initiating formal proceedings via the Sub-committee route. No complaints have been resolved informally in Quarter 3.

There has been one Assessment Sub-committee meeting in this quarter. This relates to a complaint received in Quarter 1. The Sub-committee decided to refer the complaint to the Monitoring Officer for further action and therefore this complaint is still ongoing.

## 2.2 Determination Sub-Committee Decisions

None to report - see above.

# Complaints made to the Monitoring Officer under the Code of Conduct during Q3 2025/26

Qtr 3 25/26	Complaint from	About District/ Parish councillor	Regarding	Status
	Member of the public	Parish Councillor	Treatment by cllr in relation to concerns raised about an event	Ongoing
	Parish Councillor	Parish Councillor	Misleading the public and being disrespectful towards others	Ongoing

This table helps to show where there are patterns forming as to behaviour complained about, to enable the Audit and Governance Committee to determine where there needs to be further training for councillors. Some matters may not have been found to be a breach of the Code, but it is still important to know what issues are being raised so that future complaints can be prevented. So far this year, the following areas of the Code have been complained about:

- Treating others with respect
- Bullying, harassment and discrimination
- Confidentiality and access to information
- Use of position
- Bringing the Council into disrepute

# Ethical Indicators

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	23/24	24/25	25/26	23/24	24/25	25/26	23/24	24/25	25/26	22/23	23/24	24/25
Instances of concerns raised re Modern Slavery	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Instances of concerns raised re Modern Slavery referred to national agencies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of whistle blowing incidents reported	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Challenges to procurements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public interest Reports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objections to the Councils Accounts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disciplinary action relating to breaches of the Member/Officer Protocol	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Follow up action relating to breaches of the Member/Officer Protocol	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Use of RIPA powers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

# FOI Data for Q1 25/26

	Subject Access Requests (SARs)											
	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	23/24	24/25	25/26	23/24	24/25	25/26	23/24	24/25	25/26	22/23	23/24	24/25
Total number received	11	11	25	11	10	24	9	12	19	10	8	21
% answered on time		100%	100%		90%	87%	78%	92%	95%		88%	95%
Internal reviews		1	0		0	0			0			1

	Freedom of Information Requests (FOIs)											
	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	23/24	24/25	25/26	23/24	24/25	25/26	23/24	24/25	25/26	22/23	23/24	24/25
Total number received	157	122	161	196	132	154	157	197	161*	148	194	204
% answered on time	93%	89%	91%	86%	90%	90%	92%	92%	93%	91%	92%	90%
Internal reviews	1	0	4	2	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	1

	Environmental Information Requests (EIRs)											
	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	23/24	24/25	25/26	23/24	24/25	25/26	23/24	24/25	25/26	22/23	23/24	24/25
Total number received	6	4	10	5	6	15	3	1	14	7	3	6
% answered on time		100%	90%	80%	100%	87%	100%	100%	93%		100%	85%
Internal reviews		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1		0	0

The Council received fewer SAR in this Quarter than in Q2. The number being dealt with on time is ahead of target.

This Quarter saw an increase in FOI Requests from Q2. The number dealt with on time is ahead of target.

The number of EIRs answered on time has improved from the previous quarter.

\*12 of these FOI Requests are in progress and a response is not yet due

