

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>9 July 2018</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Allegations against members</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Monitoring Officer</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<b>For information</b>

## **1. Background**

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the Ombudsman's decisions on formal complaints against members.

## **2. Decisions**

### **Complaint 7294/201800440**

A complaint that a member of a town council failed to declare an interest in a council meeting, and that she should have withdrawn from the meeting.

The Ombudsman resolved not to investigate the complaint for the following reasons:

- The member had declared an interest but was of the opinion that it was not a prejudicial interest. Due to the nature of the subsequent discussion, the Ombudsman was not persuaded that it was a prejudicial interest that meant that she should have withdrawn from the meeting.

### **Complaint 16645/201800975**

A complaint by a member of the public that a town councillor had failed to declare an interest relating to a person that was one of his customers.

The Ombudsman resolved not to investigate the complaint for the following reasons:

- As an individual that ran a local business it was obvious that the councillor would know a number of other individuals living in the area. The subject in question was not one where an independent person would consider that he or she would benefit from personally, or be able to influence a decision that would create a negative situation for the complainant.

### **Complaint 201800612**

A complaint by a member of the public about the manner in which a town councillor spoke to her on three occasions about a specific matter.

The Ombudsman resolved not to investigate the complaint for the following reasons:

- Without further evidence, it was not possible to reconcile the complainant's description of the incidents with the member's description. Both versions of the incidents were credible and he was not persuaded that he could give credence to one version over the other.

### **Complaint 201706123**

A complaint by a member of the public that a councillor had refused to communicate with him on matters relating to his property and a dispute with the Council.

The Ombudsman resolved not to investigate the complaint for the following reasons:

- It was a matter for a councillor to decide whether to meet or correspond with members of the public. Members' main duty was to represent residents within their constituencies, and they were not obliged to deal with each individual matter reported to them.

### **3. Analysis of the Complaints**

Below is an analysis of the nature of this year's complaints to date:

<b>Member who is subject of the complaint</b>	
Member of community council	3
Member of Gwynedd Council	0
Member of Gwynedd Council and community council	0
<b>Nature of the complainant</b>	
Councillor	1
Member of the public	2
Officer	0
<b>Nature of the allegation</b>	
Overall conduct	1
Declaration of Interest	2
<b>Outcome</b>	
No Investigation	3
Investigation	0
Referral to the Standards Committee	0
Referral to the Adjudication Panel for Wales	0

#### **4. Open Cases**

The situation in relation to other cases is as follows:

- **Ombudsman is considering if he should investigate** **0**
- **Ombudsman investigating** **1**

#### **5. Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to note the information.