

Committee:	The Standards Committee
Date:	21 November 2022
Title:	Allegations against members
Author:	Siôn Huws, Propriety and Elections Manager
Purpose:	For information

1. Background

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

2. Decisions

We have received the following decisions from the Ombudsman since the last report.

Complaint	Decision
<p>Complaint No. 202005528</p> <p>Complaint that a town councillor had breached the Code:</p> <p>1. That the member may have committed electoral fraud as she had bragged about registering her son on the electoral roll when he was also registered in another area.</p> <p>2. That the member was undignified in sitting on the polling station steps blocking people from entering without having to try and get past her.</p> <p>3. That the member had used her Facebook page to mount a hate campaign against the complainant.</p>	<p>No investigation:</p> <p>1. The Complainant had not provided sufficient evidence to substantiate his complaint. Concerns about electoral fraud would be a matter for the Police to consider.</p> <p>2. The alleged breach of the Code was not sufficiently serious to warrant investigation in the public interest.</p> <p>3. The complainant had not provided evidence of the Facebook comments to which he referred and therefore had not provided sufficient evidence to substantiate his complaint.</p>

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3. Analysis of the Complaints

Below is an analysis of this year's complaints (2022/23) where a decision has been received:

Member who is subject of the complaint	
Member of community council	2
Member of Gwynedd Council	1
Member of Gwynedd Council and community council	
Nature of the complainant	
Councillor	1
Member of the public	1
Officer	1
Nature of the allegation	
General conduct	3
Declaration of Interest	
Conduct & Declaration of Interest	
Outcome	
No Investigation	1
Investigation – No evidence of breaching the Code of Conduct	1
Investigation - No further steps required	
Investigation discontinued	1
Investigation – Referral to Standards Committee	1
Investigation – Referral to Adjudication Panel for Wales	

4. Open Cases

4.1 The situation in relation to other cases is as follows:

- **Ombudsman considering whether to investigate** **0**
- **Ombudsman investigating** **2**
- **Referred to Standards Committee** **1**
- **Referred to Adjudication Panel for Wales** **0**

5. Recommendation

5.1 The Committee is asked to note the information.