

Committee :	Standards Committee
Date :	23 June 2009
Title :	Allegations made against councillors
Author :	Monitoring Officer
Action :	For information

1. Background

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of developments, since my previous report, regarding allegations against councillors.

2. Summary of the Allegations

2.1 Ombudsman's reference 200801843

A member of a community council is accused of writing a malicious, defamatory, discriminatory and factually incorrect letter to a minister of the Welsh Assembly Government. The letter specifically referred to the complainant's personal life.

I reported previously that the Ombudsman had completed his investigation and had referred the matter to the Adjudication Panel for Wales for determination. The hearing is to be held on 26th June, and I will report back on the outcome.

2.2 Ombudsman's reference 200802179

A clerk to a town council has complained about the behaviour of a member towards her.

In my previous report I stated that the Ombudsman has yet to decide whether or not to investigate the complaint. This is still the case.

2.3 Ombudsman's reference 200802180

The chairman of a town council has complained about the behaviour of a member, accusing him of lack of respect and bullying.

In my previous report I stated that the Ombudsman has yet to decide whether or not to investigate the complaint. This is still the case.

2.4 Ombudsman's reference 200802366

I reported previously on the Ombudsman's decision not to investigate the allegation that a councillor had sent an e-mail to the complainant that was addressed to in a derogatory manner and included a swear word.

Since then the complainant has appealed to the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman however confirmed his decision not to investigate because, in his opinion, the potential breach(es) were not sufficiently serious to attract a sanction from Gwynedd's Standards Committee or the Adjudication Panel for Wales. He also stated that the facts were self-evident and that further investigation would not have provided any more clarity. However he did say that he would be writing to the councillor to explain that the behaviour was unacceptable and that it would be kept in mind if another complaint arose in the future.

3. Recommendation

3.1 The Committee is asked to note this report for information.