

Committee :	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Date:	30 September 2013
Title	Allegations against members
Author:	Monitoring Officer
Action:	For Information

1. Background

The purpose of this report is to present information to the Committee regarding formal complaints made against members. The report is based on information received from the Ombudsman and the case references are his.

2. Complaints

2.1 Case No.201300346

Complaint

That a county councillor had secretly filmed and recorded a conversation and then put it on his Facebook page.

Decision

Investigation continues.

2.2 Case No.3982/201301430

Complaint

That a county councillor had allowed offensive and libellous comments posted on his Facebook page.

Decision

Considering whether to investigate.

2.3 Case No.201301307

Complaint

That a county councillor had behaved in a threatening manner towards the complainant.

Decision

Investigation continues.

2.4 Case No. 201301629

Complaint

That a town councillor had failed to declare an interest at a meeting of the council.

Decision

Considering whether to investigate.

2.5 Case No. 4414/201301916

Complaint

The Ombudsman has decided to investigate matters that came to his attention as part of the investigation into another complaint against the councillor (para 2.1 above):

- Bringing his office as councillor or the authority into disrepute
- Conflict between the councillor's business interests and his role as councillor and misuse of his position as councillor
- Attending a meeting where a conflict of interests could arise ,contrary to the Monitoring Officer's advice

Decision

Investigation continues.

2.6 Case No. 4534/201302665 & 4534/201302666

Complaint

Complaints against a county councillor, by two fellow-members, that he had placed messages on his Facebook page about their claims for travelling expenses with the intent of discrediting them.

Decision

No investigation. He had published a list of councillors' claims but had not referred specifically to the two members. Members of the public had done so when posting messages but he could not be held responsible for this, and would not have foreseen that such comments would be made.

3. Cases heard by the Standards Committee.

The Committee held a hearing in respect of the complaint against Councillor A. M. Jones, Gwynedd Council on 26th September, 2012. The Councillor has lodged an appeal with the Adjudication Panel for Wales and a date is awaited for the hearing.

4. Recommendation.

The Committee is asked to note the information.