

Committee:	THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Date:	4 November 2019
Title:	Allegations against members
Author:	Senior Solicitor (Corporate)
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 one decision from the Ombudsman since the last report.

Complaint 7294/201806883

Complaint that a town councillor had breached the following provisions of the Code:

- The need to show respect and consideration for others
- Not to use bullying behaviour or harass any person
- Not to conduct yourself in a manner that could be regarded as bringing your office or authority into dispute
- Not to use your position improperly to confer on or secure a benefit for yourself or any other person
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The Ombudsman decided not to investigate for the following reasons:

- He was not persuaded that the remarks made by others on Facebook regarding the complainant's family could be attributed to the councillor or his obligations under the code.
- The remarks, which were of a political nature, were not considered to be so egregious as to warrant an investigation
- Even if the breach regarding improper use of position were to be proved it would not be sufficiently serious that a Standards Committee would be likely to consider or impose a sanction.

3. Analysis of the Complaints

Below is an analysis of this year's complaints (2019/20) where a decision has been:

Member who is subject of the complaint	
Member of community council	1
Member of Gwynedd Council	0
Member of Gwynedd Council and community council	0
Nature of the complainant	
Councillor	1
Member of the public	0
Officer	0
Nature of the allegation	
Overall conduct	1
Declaration of Interest	0
Overall conduct & Declaration of Interest	0
Outcome	
No Investigation	1
Investigation – No evidence of breaching the Code of Conduct	0
Investigation – Evidence of breaching the code but no further steps required	0
Investigation - referral to the Standards Committee	0
Investigation - Referral to the Adjudication Panel for Wales	0

4. Open Cases

The situation in relation to other cases is as follows:

- **Ombudsman considering an investigation** 3
- **Ombudsman investigating** 0

5. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note the information.