
LOCAL ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR TAKING NO ACTION ON THE COMPLAINT

1. the complaint fails one or more of the jurisdiction tests (section 1.6 of the Procedure);
2. 'repeat complaints', unless supported by further evidence substantiating or indicating that the complaint is exceptionally serious or significant ;
3. the complaint is anonymous unless supported by independent documentary evidence substantiating or indicating that the complaint is exceptionally serious or significant;
4. the complaint is not about a breach of the Code of Conduct;
5. the complaint does not disclose a potential breach of the Code of Conduct;
6. no or insufficient information/evidence to substantiate the complaint has been submitted by the complainant;
7. the complaint is malicious, relatively minor, politically motivated or tit-for-tat, unless the complaint raises serious matters;
8. the complainant is unreasonably persistent, malicious and/or vexatious, unless the complaint raises serious matters;
9. the same complainant submits the same complaint a number of times, unless the complaint is supported by new evidence;
10. the alleged misconduct happened so long ago, that there is little benefit in taking action now;
11. the complaint is too trivial to warrant further action;
12. the complaint is relatively minor and dealing with the complaint would have a disproportionate effect on both public money and Officers' and Members' time;
13. the circumstances have changed so much that there would be little benefit arising from an investigation or other action;
14. the complaint has been the subject of an investigation or other action and there is nothing more to be gained by further action being taken;
15. the complaint has been the subject of investigation by other regulatory authorities and there is nothing more to be gained by further action being taken;
16. the complaint is such that it is unlikely that an investigation will be able to come to a firm conclusion on the matter e.g. where there is no firm evidence on the matter;
17. the complaint is about a deceased person;
18. the complaint is about a person who is no longer a Borough or Parish/Town Councillor or Co-opted Member or a member of another authority;
19. the alleged conduct occurred when the Subject Member was not a member of the Authority;
20. the alleged conduct occurred when the Subject Member was acting as a member of another authority;
21. the alleged conduct occurred before the adoption of the Code of Conduct;
22. the complaint is about dissatisfaction with the Authority's decision, policies and priorities etc;
23. the complaint is about alleged conduct which occurred in the Subject Member's private life.