

FOI REF:	17509
RESPONSE SENT:	10 August 2026

Request

Please provide the following information held by the Local Authority on official complaints submitted by members of the public against elected officials. **NB. Just to clarify where you have expressed “by members of the public”, just to note that a large proportion of the complaints submitted to the City Council are from elected Councillors.**

By "complaint" I mean any allegation, received and recorded by your Monitoring Officer (or nearest equivalent official), that an elected official has breached the authority's code of conduct.

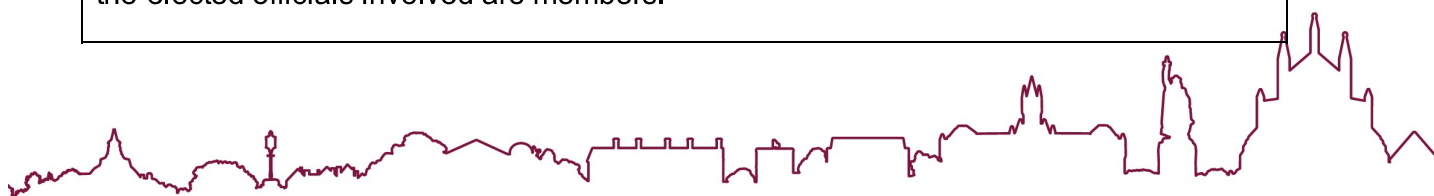
By "elected official" I mean an elected member of the council and, where you hold this, any parish or town councillor for whom you are the responsible principal authority. **Also to clarify, where you use the term “elected official”, just to advise councillors who are co-opted on to a council, most often at a parish Council are also subject to the same code of conduct and as such the Monitoring Officer can and does receive complaints concerning them. Co-opted councillors are not elected in the same way a “regular councillor”**

I am seeking aggregate, statistical information only. I am not requesting anything that would identify any individual complainant or elected official, and I do not require any case-by-case review of individual complaint files.

If any element below cannot be answered from your existing complaints records within the appropriate cost limit, please treat the remaining elements as severable and answer those if you can.

Information Requested For each of the calendar years 2024 and 2025, and for Q1-Q2 of 2026 (1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026), please provide:

1. The total number of complaints received about elected officials submitted by the public;
2. A numerical breakdown of the complaints categorised by the political party of which the elected officials involved are members.



3. For each numerical total of complaints categorised by political party membership, please provide:

a. If known, the nature of the alleged or actual conduct that was the cause of the complaint, categorised as follows (or its nearest equivalent):

- disrespect, bullying or harassment;
- failure to register or declare a disclosable interest;
- misuse of position, resources or authority;
- breach of confidentiality;
- bringing the authority or office into disrepute;
- conduct on social media or online;
- other (please specify the categories you use).

b. A numerical breakdown of the current statuses of the complaints, categorised as follows (or the nearest equivalent you record):

- Proceeded past initial assessment to formal investigation;
- Breach of the code was found;
- Resulted in a sanction (broken down by type of sanction applied).

(Where a complaint spans more than one category, please count it under the primary category or briefly note your counting approach.)



Response

Responses to the questions highlighted in red below.

1. The total number of complaints received about elected officials submitted by the public; For each of the calendar years 2024 and 2025, and for Q1-Q2 of 2026 (1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026).
 - **2024 – 16**
 - **2025 – 10**
 - **2026 - 3**
2. A numerical breakdown of the complaints categorised by the political party of which the elected officials involved are members. **The councillors Political party is not recorded as part of the code of conduct complaint system. The vast majority of complaints the city council receives relates to Parish Councillors who for the most part do not declare any political affiliation and so this information would not be known by the city council.**
3. For each numerical total of complaints categorised by political party membership, please provide:
 - a. If known, the nature of the alleged or actual conduct that was the cause of the complaint, categorised as follows (or its nearest equivalent):
 - disrespect, bullying or harassment;
 - failure to register or declare a disclosable interest;
 - misuse of position, resources or authority;
 - breach of confidentiality;
 - bringing the authority or office into disrepute;
 - conduct on social media or online;
 - other (please specify the categories you use).

The subject members Political party is not recorded as part of the code of conduct complaint system and so this analysis is not possible.

b. A numerical breakdown of the current statuses of the complaints, categorised as follows (or the nearest equivalent you record):

- Proceeded past initial assessment to formal investigation;
- Breach of the code was found;
- Resulted in a sanction (broken down by type of sanction applied).

(Where a complaint spans more than one category, please count it under the primary category or briefly note your counting approach.)

Of the 16 Complaints raised in 2024: Breach = 1. No Breach = 3. Following initial investigation, decided not to further investigate = 12.

Of the 10 Complaints raised in 2025: Closed due to Councillor resignation = 5. Following initial investigation, decided not to further investigate = 5.

Of the 3 Complaints raised in 2026: 2 are currently under initial investigation, Following initial investigation, decided not to further investigate = 1.

