

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

19/10/18

PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To consider the report and identify any trends and points of learning relevant to the role of the committee

Reasons:

This will help the committee plan its work for the forthcoming year.

Scrutiny Committee recommendations / comments:

Not applicable

Exec Board Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr E Dole (Leader)

Directorate		
Chief Executives		
Name of Head of Service:	Designations:	
Linda Rees-Jones	Head of Administration & Law	Tel Nos.
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
STANDARDS COMMITTEE
19/10/18**

**PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES ANNUAL
REPORT**

Every year the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales publishes an annual report and statement of accounts giving information about both maladministration and code of conduct cases that his office has dealt with during the preceding 12 months.

During the year the Ombudsman received 270 code complaints, an increase of 14% on the previous year. This was due entirely to a 33% increase in code complaints against Town & Community Councillors.

Of these by far the most common complaint (representing 42% of the total) was that a councillor or co-opted member had failed to promote equality and respect.

Of those complaints (plus those brought forward from the previous year) the Ombudsman closed 247 cases. However of these he only investigated 30 (down 32%) and found evidence of breach in only 13 (down 41%)

Of the 213 code complaints which were closed 'after initial consideration', the Ombudsman does not state what proportion were because of a lack of evidence and what proportion were due to him determining it was not in the public interest to investigate.

There were 6 complaints made against members of Carmarthenshire County Council, all of which were closed after initial consideration.

A total of 16 code complaints were made against the members of 3 different Town and Community Councils in Carmarthenshire during the year.

Council	No.of Complaints	Outcome
Llanddowror & Llanmilo	2	Closed after initial consideration
Llanelli Rural	1	No evidence of breach
Pembrey and Burry Port	14	Closed after initial consideration

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Linda Rees Jones

Head of Administration and Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities NONE	Legal NONE	Finance NONE	ICT NONE	Risk Management Issues NONE	Staffing Implications NONE	Physical Assets NONE
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CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Linda Rees Jones

Head of Administration and Law

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Scrutiny Committee

Not applicable

2. Local Member(s)

Not applicable

3. Community / Town Council

Not applicable

4. Relevant Partners

Not applicable

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Not applicable

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Legal file	DPSC-164	Legal Services, County Hall