

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

18TH SEPTEMBER 2023

PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT

Purpose: To note the Ombudsman's report and identify any actions arising

To consider and comment on the following issues:

What actions (if any) need to be taken

Reasons:

The Annual Report contains valuable information regarding code of conduct complaints during the year

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Not Applicable

Directorate

Name of Head of Service:

Linda Rees Jones

Report Author:

Robert Edgecombe

Designations:

Head of Administration and Law

Legal Services Manager

Tel Nos.

01267 224012

LRJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

01267 224018

rjedgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
STANDARDS COMMITTEE
18TH SEPTEMBER 2023

PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT

The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) has responsibility for investigating Code of Conduct complaint against Members of local authorities and other prescribed bodies in Wales such as Fire authorities and National Parks Authorities.

The Ombudsman has published her Annual Report for 2022-2023 a copy of which is attached. The report covers the full range of the Ombudsman's activities, not just code of conduct breaches.

Information about Code of Conduct complaints handled by the Ombudsman can be found on pages 24 to 28 of the annual report and indicates that there has been a slight reduction in serious complaints warranting investigation and a slight reduction in the number of cases referred to the Adjudication Panel for Wales.

Code of Conduct Complaints data can also be found on page 136 of the report.

The Annual letter issued by the Ombudsman to the Leader of the Council (attached) gives further information in relation to Carmarthenshire. Data regarding Code of Conduct complaints can be found at Appendix E. Committee members will note that this states 1 case has been referred to the Adjudication Panel for Wales (APW). However, the Ombudsman has confirmed that this is an error and that a fresh annual letter will be issued showing that there were 2 referrals to the Standards Committee and none to the APW

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	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: *LRJones*

Head of Administration and Law

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

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED

N/A

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

There are none.