

<p><b>LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT</b></p> <p><b>Standards Committee – 8 June 2005</b></p> <p><b>Report from the Borough Solicitor</b></p>	
For action/information	Wards affected: ALL

**FOR NOTING****WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

<b>REPORT TITLE :STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND BOROUGH STATISTICS</b>
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**1.0 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report from the Monitoring Officer provides statistics regarding the number of decisions in respect of complaints made to the Standards Board for England specifically in reference to London Boroughs.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That members note the report.
- 2.2 That members forward this report to Leaders of the political groups with their comments, if any in line with the responsibility to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members including any co-opted members.

**3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

**4.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report. However, should many hearings be required, staffing resources will need to be re-assessed.

**5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The report concerns the findings of the Standards Board for England in respect of complaints against members of local authorities. The Standards Board for England is an independent body introduced, in legislation by Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000.

5.2 The Standards Board is responsible for the conduct of councillors, members and co-opted members in a large variety of local authorities including police, fire and civil defence authorities as well as London Boroughs.

5.3 There is no legal requirement to maintain statistics of complaints, however, the Standards Board are responsible for receiving complaints and referring them on for investigation.

## **6.0 DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Officers believe that there are no specific diversity implications in this report.

## **7.0 DETAIL**

7.1 The Standards Board publishes on its website a statistical breakdown of allegations received about councillors. These statistics are attached.

7.2 Very few allegations were received about London Boroughs when compared to other types of authority. Only 5% of allegations were relating to London boroughs compared with 41% regarding parish/town councils and 32% regarding District Councils.

7.3 Three quarters of allegations were not referred.

7.4 The highest percentage of allegations related to prejudicial interests with the failure to register financial interests being the least frequent.

7.5 In terms of final findings the most common result was that no further action should be taken (65%). Five percent of allegations were referred to the monitoring officer. Eight percent were referred to the Adjudication Panel or England.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- Local Government Act 2000
- Standards Board for England website [www.standardsboard.co.uk](http://www.standardsboard.co.uk)

Any persons wishing to inspect the papers in connection with the above proposals shall contact Jane Alver at [jane.alver@brent.gov.uk](mailto:jane.alver@brent.gov.uk) or at Borough Solicitor's Office, Town Hall Annexe, Forty Lane, Wembley Middx HA9 9HD – Telephone number 0208 937 1368