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Borough Solicitor

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Your Ref:
Our Ref: TO/105/119/ADV

Date: 6th December 2004

Dear

RE: Audit of the Registers of Member's Interests and Gifts and Hospitality

As you may know, an audit of the Registers of Member's Interests and Gifts and Hospitality has been undertaken as part of the 2004-05 internal audit plan.

I have recently received a copy of the draft report from the auditors who advised me that some members have declared interests at council meetings but appear not to have previously registered those interests in the Register of Member Interests. In addition, although some members have registered membership of a councillor association very few have registered membership of a political party. The auditors also found it a little surprising how few declarations of gifts and hospitality have been submitted.

As you are aware, Brent's Code of Conduct requires that members record their financial and other interests in a register which is open to public inspection. In addition the Local Government Act 2000 contains provisions for the maintenance of a register of member's interest and register of member's gifts and hospitality. Members have a duty to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of any changes or additions to their interests and the register is to be updated accordingly.

The initial findings show that your register entries appear not to be up to date for example you have not declared membership of a political party. I would urge you to take steps to rectify this position as a matter of urgency. Until then I must point out to you that you are in breach of the Brent Code of Conduct and are facing the risk of referral to the Standards Board for England. I would suggest you review the whole form to ensure it is up to date. In particular I would point out that an interest in land or buildings will include your home and employment or business includes any self employed business you run.

If you need any advice or assistance then please speak to the staff in the political group offices or to the Democratic Services Manager.

Yours sincerely

TERRY OSBORNE
Borough Solicitor