



**Standards Committee  
Wednesday, 26 March 2008**

**Report from the Borough Solicitor**

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**Standards Board for England Statistics**

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report sets out some of the latest statistics provided by the Standards Board for England on the number of complaints received by the Standards Board, the number of matters investigated and the decisions that were made.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That members note this report.

**3. DETAIL**

- 3.1 The Standards Board regularly publishes a statistical breakdown of allegations received about councillors. The most recent statistics published by the Standards Board cover the period 1 April 2007 to 31 January 2008 and are attached to this report as **Appendix 1**. During this same period five complaints were made about Brent Councillors. In three cases the Standards Board decided not to investigate the complaint, one complaint was referred to an Ethical Standards Officer and the other has been referred to the Monitoring Officer for Investigation.

- 3.2 In particular members may be interested in the following statistics.
- Only two percent of allegations received by the Standards Board related to London Boroughs compared with fifty seven percent regarding parish/town councils and twenty percent regarding District Councils. This is consistent with the statistics provided in

my January 2007 report when three percent of allegations related to London Boroughs.

- Eighty six percent of all allegations were not referred for investigation.
- Twenty seven percent of allegations that were referred for investigation during this period related to prejudicial interests. This was the most common allegation referred for investigation
- Fifty one percent of those that were referred for investigation during this period were referred to the Monitoring Officer for local investigation.
- Of those referred for investigation, in sixty one percent of the cases the finding was that no further and in thirty one percent there was no evidence of a breach.
- Sixty six percent of the allegations received came from members of the public.

3.3 The Standards Board have also provided some information on the number of cases that have been referred for local investigation since November 2004 and the results of those referrals which are also set out in **Appendix 1**.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report.

#### **6. DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. However members may wish to note that in the future the Monitoring Officer will be required to supply the Standards Board with quarterly returns on the complaints that the Standards Committee receive and the progress of them. This information is likely to feed into any future Standards Boards statistics.

### ***Background Information***

*Bulletin 37, available through the Standards Board for England website*

Should any person require any further information about the issues addressed in this report, please contact Dan Bonifant on 0208 937 1368.

**Terry Osborne**  
**Borough Solicitor**