

**Meeting of:** STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**Date:** 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2004

**Report of:** CORPORATE DIRECTOR (CENTRAL SERVICES)

**Reference:** CDCS

**Title:** STANDARDS BOARD CASE REFERRALS 2004/05

## **PUBLIC/EXEMPT ITEM**

This report is public.

## **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To update the Committee on both the national and local position of the Standards Board workload.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. That the report be noted.**

## **REPORT**

### **1 NATIONAL POSITION**

1.1 The statistics of the Standards Board caseload for the first six months of this year are now available, and show that a total of 1,825 cases have been referred to the Standards Board. This is an 8% increase on the same period from last year.

1.2 An analysis of the allegations for 2004/05 is attached as **Appendix A** and can be summarised as follows –

Complaints received April 2004 to September 2004	1,825
Complaints passed to investigator	456 (25%)

47% of those received were in respect of Parish Councils and 28% in respect of District Councils.

It does seem that all the procedures are becoming well known outside Councils in that 59% of the allegations (51% last year) were made by members of the public. Allegations from fellow Councillors accounted for 32% of the total.

1.3 An analysis of the nature of the allegations investigated shows that the most common areas for complaint concern –

Bringing the authority into disrepute (19%)  
Non-declaration of a prejudicial interest (19%)  
Non-declaration of a personal interest (18%)

1.4 Of those cases that had been investigated in 2004/05 only 10%, or 46 cases, had been referred to the Adjudication Panel, 67% required no further action, 19% there was no evidence of a breach and only 4% had been referred back to the Monitoring Officer.

## 2 LOCAL POSITION

2.1 Locally, I can confirm that the Standards Board have received a total of 32 allegations of misconduct in respect of City and Parish Councillors. A summary of the position is set out below.

	City	Parish
Allegations Received	23	9
Proceed to Investigation	15	6
Resolved to Date	13	6
- No breach	7	--
- Breach but No Action Required	5	6
- Breach Referred to Adjudication Panel	1	--

2.2 There are currently two cases being investigated by Ethical Standards Officers.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

There are no financial implications of this report.

### **SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

Legal Services have been consulted and have no comments to add.

### **MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Monitoring Officer has prepared the report.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.