



City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London SE1 2AA  
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000  
Minicom: 020 7983 4458  
Web: [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

**Sir Alistair Graham,**  
Chair  
Committee on Standards in Public Life,  
35 Great Smith Street,  
London SW1P 3BQ

**Your Ref:**  
**Our Ref:**  
**Date:**

Dear Sir Alistair

Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life Tenth Inquiry Report

I am writing in response to the above report, the third chapter of which the Standards Committee of the Greater London Authority discussed at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

The Committee noted that the inquiry had identified and discussed many of the areas which concern us about the Conduct regime as a whole and welcomed your conclusions.

The Committee also requested that I write to you specifically to express its support for your recommendations 17 and 18 (on page 19 and 20) in respect of sifting of complaints, which we believe should be the responsibility of local standards committees.

We also note your suggestions for initiatives and triggers which might overcome the issue of lack of local impartiality (on page 18) but have concerns about the proposal that a low CPA score on governance might trigger an SBE audit (point 3.46). We agree that where there is an ombudsman or adjudication panel concern or finding, further work on probity may be required, however the CPA regime, being much broader in scope, might be an inappropriate indicator of the need for further work on probity and we would resist this idea. In addition, the SBE do not currently have audit powers to fulfil this role, and we question whether, in any event, they would be the most appropriate body to undertake such an audit.

We wholeheartedly endorse your conclusion that standards committees remain frustrated at their peripheral role in the ethical framework (point 3.54, page 21). Whilst we accept that the two sets of regulations made under s66 Local Government Act have given local committees a role in investigation and

determination of complaints, the continuation of the central sifting of complaints remains a fundamental flaw in the regime.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Grant', written in a cursive style.

**Professor Malcolm Grant**

Independent Member and Chair of the Greater London Authority Standards Committee