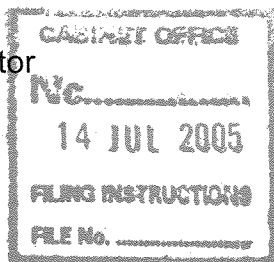




Your Ref:
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Secretary to the Committee
Standards in Public Life
35 Greatsmith Street
London SW1P 3BQ

11 July 2005

Dear Sir

**Tenth Enquiry Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life
(Claim Committee)**

This District Council welcomes the move in the recommendations to locally based arrangements proposed by the Committee. However, it is important to ensure that there are resources allocated to support the Monitoring Officer in the process.

The Standards Committee in this Authority operates pro-actively and the proposed changes will assist in this process, particularly in relation to ensuring that ethical standards and probity have a fundamental basis within the Authority and is part of the corporate governance of the Authority.

Members have also commented favourably on the proposed changes to the Rules on Prejudicial Interest, so that Councillors' human rights are not breached. Further it is important that clarification is given in relation to the issues of lobbying and similar matters.

There has also been observation within the membership of this Authority that the move to a fully independent Standards Committee would not be in the interests of this Authority. This is particularly so as the intention has been to ensure local determination of complaints and issue and self-regulation by the Authority. The proposals therefore to have a fully independent Standards Committee do run counter to the self-regulation issue.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Samson, Solicitor
MBA; LLB; MCMi Dip (LG) Head of Legal and Member Services

