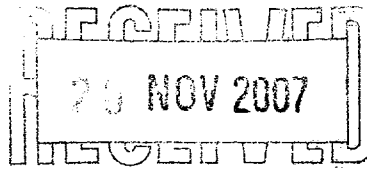


19 November 2007



under
D.  the
Standards Board
for England

Mr Steven Quayle
Monitoring Officer
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Manchester M1 1BB

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Dear Mr Quayle

SBE20301.07

An alleged breach of the Code of Conduct was recently reported to the Standards Board for England.

The allegation and our decision are set out in the attached notice, which also explains the relevant procedures.

Yours sincerely

Bridget Beale
Referrals Case Manager

Direct line: 01618 175 431
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the
Standards Board
for England

Decision Notice

Reference SBE20301.07

The Complaint

The Standards Board for England recently received a complaint from Mrs M Lenton, Principal of Slough Grammar School, concerning the alleged conduct of Councillor Balwinder Dhillon of Slough Borough Council. It was decided to refer the allegations for investigation. The following summarises the general nature of the allegation:

Councillor Dhillon allegedly made racist remarks to the complainant's secretary, asking her if she spoke or understood English. He allegedly also "harassed" a school governor who attempted to intervene and "abused and harassed" an assistant head teacher. The alleged conduct is reported to have occurred on 31 October 2007 when Councillor Dhillon came to the school in connection with a tree owned by the council. The complainant also states that Councillor Dhillon "brought on site someone who caused a problem on child protection grounds", although this allegation is not elaborated upon.

Officers contacted the complainant to clarify whether the allegation concerns actions carried out in Councillor Dhillon's official capacity as an elected member. It was clarified that Councillor Dhillon allegedly identified himself as a councillor and confirmed that his council badge gave him a right to be in the school and see the principal without an appointment.

Decision

It was decided to refer the allegation to an ethical standards officer.

Potential breaches of the Code of Conduct identified

We have identified below the paragraphs of the Code of Conduct which may apply to the alleged conduct. The investigator will determine which paragraphs are relevant during the course of the investigation.

The Code of Conduct 2007

- Failing to treat others with respect

Further information

This is contained in our booklet "A guide to our investigations process", which has been sent to the complainant and the member with this notice. An officer from our investigations department will be in touch with the parties shortly.

We notify all concerned parties in writing once we have assessed a complaint. This notice is sent to the person or persons making the allegation, the member against whom the allegation was made, the monitoring officer of the relevant authority and (if appropriate) the clerk to the parish or town council.

Terms of Reference

The Standards Board for England was established by the Local Government Act 2000 with a primary duty to consider written allegations. The Act also gave the Board a wide discretion to decide whether or not a written allegation should be referred to an ethical standards officer for investigation.

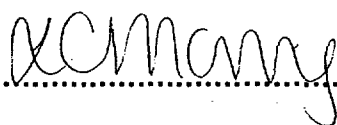
The Local Government Act 2003 permitted the Standards Board for England to delegate this function to nominated officers. In doing this, the Board has established a careful checking and monitoring procedure. Complainants may have their complaints reviewed by a senior manager if they are dissatisfied with the decision made by nominated officers.

At this stage, only the information provided by the complainant is assessed to decide whether there should be an investigation. For this reason, and to avoid unnecessary anxiety for members, officers do not normally contact the parties before notifying them of the decision. It should be noted that the Standards Board makes no finding of fact at the assessment stage; it only decides whether an allegation should be investigated. This assessment process is separate and distinct from the investigative role of an ethical standards officer.

Additional Help

If you need additional support in relation to this or future contact with us, please let us know as soon as possible. We can supply copies of documents in large print, Braille, a taped transcript, or a translated version.

Signed



Date

15/11/2009

**Lucy Morris – Principal Referrals Case Manager
(On behalf of the Standards Board for England)**