



the
Standards Board
for England

Fourth Floor
Griffin House
40 Lever Street
Manchester M1 1BB

T: 0161 817 5300

F: 0161 817 5499

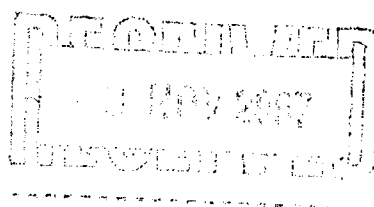
Minicom: 0161 817 5449

enquiries@standardsboard.gov.uk
www.standardsboard.gov.uk

29 November 2007

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Steven Quayle
Monitoring Officer
Slough Borough Council
Town Hall
Bath Road
Slough
SL1 3UQ



Dear Mr Quayle

REFERENCE: SBE20301.07

I refer to Matthew Richard's email dated 26 November 2007 with regard to Mrs M Lenton allegation that Councillor B S Dhillon may have failed to comply with Slough Borough Council's Code of Conduct.

Under section 60(2) of the Local Government Act 2000, I have decided to refer the matter to you for investigation. Before reaching this decision, I have considered any issues about the possibility of this matter being investigated locally including comments in your email of 23 November 2007. On balance I have decided that it is appropriate for this matter to be referred to you for local investigation.

Please find enclosed a copy of the allegation and all supporting documents that have been obtained by the Standards Board for England. We recommend that you provide the member with a copy of the allegation letter and any supporting documents, edited to remove any material which should not be disclosed under the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

If you are in any doubt about whether to disclose a document or a part of a document, or about whether an individual's identity should be disclosed, you should take legal advice or you can ask for guidance from the Standards Board for England.

As your starting point in the investigation, we recommend that you take the alleged facts as expressed by the complainant in their allegation to the Standards Board. You will also need to use this source when summarising the allegation for the purposes of writing your report.

If only a part of the complainant's allegation has been referred, then that will be made clear in the decision notice which you have already received from the Standards Board's Referrals Unit, and we recommend that you confirm to the complainant and member at an early stage those allegations that have been referred to you for investigation, and those that have not, with reference to the complainant's original allegation and the decision notice.

I also enclose a copy of our local investigation guidance for monitoring officers and guidance on how to conduct an investigation. Both of these documents are also available on our website www.standardsboard.gov.uk. (Please note on page 7 of this guidance to monitoring officers, once you have completed your investigation, a copy of your final report should be sent to me),

In order to ensure that investigations are being undertaken in a timely manner, could I ask that you confirm to me by 10 January 2008 the anticipated completion date of the investigation and if relevant the name of the investigator should it not be yourself. For your convenience I enclose two proformas, one for you to complete and return, the other for you to retain.

I am writing to Councillor Dhillon and Mrs Lenton to let them know of this referral. I have not sent the member a copy of the allegation. The matter is now within your jurisdiction and both parties have been informed that you will be in touch with them shortly.

Once the local investigation and determination have been completed we will be publishing details of the outcome on our website.

If you have any queries, please contact Rebecca Strickson, the local investigations co-ordinator on 0161 817 5372 or email local.investigationenquiries@standardsboard.gov.uk. We also have a legal enquiries telephone line available for monitoring officers to contact one of our internal legal advisers, either during the investigation or when preparing for the standards committee hearing, this number is 0161 817 5393.

Yours sincerely



Steven Kingston
Ethical Standards Officer

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