

THE STANDARDS (ASSESSMENT) SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING OF 14 JULY 2009

Case Reference: 02/09

DECISION NOTICE: Refer to Monitoring Officer

Decision:

The Assessment Sub-Committee agreed that the complaint should be referred to the City Council's Monitoring Officer for investigation.

Complaint:

On 14 July 2009, the Standards (Assessment) Sub-Committee of the City Council's Standards Committee convened in private and considered a complaint by Councillor Melvyn Caplan, a serving member of the City Council, that Councillors Barbara Grahame and Aziz Toki had breached the Members Code of Conduct.

Set out below is a brief summary of the complaint:

Councillor Caplan's complaint is that the Code provides that Council resources must not be used by Members in connection with party political matters. As supporting evidence to his complaint he provided copies of correspondence apparently sent in bulk by Councillors Grahame and Toki to constituents which may have been sent using Council resources. These were included in the report considered by the Sub-Committee.

The complaint makes reference to the City Council's Code of Governance which includes advice on the use of Council resources for party political purposes.

Reason for Decision:

The Standards (Assessment) Sub-Committee gave careful consideration to the complaint. It was satisfied that an investigation was necessary in order to ascertain all the relevant facts relating to the complaint. It would only then be possible, for a different Sub-Committee, to decide if a breach of the Code had taken place.

Confidentiality and Publication

Councillor Caplan has not requested that his identity or a summary of his complaint be withheld. Accordingly, no reason exists for the details of the complaint included in this summary not to be disclosed. The Monitoring Officer is satisfied that the forthcoming investigation will not be prejudiced by this disclosure.

This decision notice has been sent to the Complainant, Councillor Melvyn Caplan and Councillors Barbara Grahame and Aziz Toki, and will be published by the City Council for a period of 6 years.

Composition of the Standards (Assessment) Sub-Committee:

Lord Richard Best (Independent Member) (Chairman)

The Very Reverend John Hall (Independent Member)

Councillor Ruth Bush

Councillor Tim Mitchell

Signed:
Chairman

Date:.....

Signed:
Head of Legal Services

Date: