



I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding complaints made against councillors for this local authority for the financial years 2019/2020 to 2024/2025. Specifically, I am seeking the following data, broken down by financial year:

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| 1. The total number of complaints raised against councillors (both elected and co-opted members, including those for town or parish councils within your authority's area, if applicable).        | 19/20 – 24 complaints<br>20/21 – 18 complaints<br>21/22 – 24 complaints<br>22/23 – 17 complaints<br>23/24 – 21 complaints<br>24/ 25 - 69 complaints (of which 41 relate to the same matter)  |
| 2. The total number of complaints investigated by the Monitoring Officer.   | 19/20 - 0<br>20/21 – 0<br>21/22 – 2<br>22/23 -0<br>23/24 – 0<br>24/25 - 1<br><br>The Council's procedure provides for investigations to take place after an assessment of the complaint, evidence and Members response. The assessment determines whether there should be an investigation. There is an initial sifting stage before the assessment and many complaints will not proceed beyond this stage, or may be withdrawn or the assessment determines that an investigation is not necessary or not in the public interest. |
| 3. The total number of complaints referred to and investigated by the Standards Committee (or its sub-committee, such as a Hearings Panel).   | There has been one Standards Ad Hoc Sub Committee Hearing in the financial years 2019/2020 to 2024/2025. Information on this can be found via the following link:-<br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Standards Ad Hoc Sub Committee - 16th July, 2019</a></li></ul>   |
| 4. The total number of outcomes from Standards Committee investigations, categorized by outcome (e.g., breach found, no breach found, informal resolution, sanctions imposed, or other outcomes). | The above link contains the minutes of the hearing, which outlines the outcomes of the meeting.  |