



REQUEST 18423

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting information on your council's Code of Conduct investigations into councillors, for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24, and 2024/25 (taking the financial year from 1 April to 31 March.)

1. Published Reports or Online Links

Please provide the URLs or copies of any annual or quarterly reports published on your website that summarise Code of Conduct complaints, outcomes, and investigations for the above years. This may include Standards Committee reports, Monitoring Officer updates, or local governance summaries. *(For this request, I am not interested in any Parish Council investigations / complaints).*

2. Case-Level Investigation Data

For each individual complaint that was formally investigated (not just referred or dismissed at initial filter stage), please provide this data in a spreadsheet or CSV, one row per case:

- Financial Year
- Investigator Type
- Total Cost of case (£)
- Hours Charged in the case
- Outcome Type

Investigator Type should be one of:

- Internal officer (e.g. MO/DMO)
- Reciprocal arrangement with another Council
- Independent freelancer
- Specialist agency (e.g. Hoey Ainscough)
- Law firm or solicitor (e.g. VWV, Wilkin Chapman Rollits, etc.)
- Other (please specify)

Outcome Codes

Please include a basic outcome classification, such as:

- no breach
- informal resolution
- breach found
- referred to full Standards Committee, etc.

RESPONSE

1. [2022/23, Annual Standards Report](#)
[2023/24, Annual Standards Report](#)
[2024/25, yet to be published](#)

2. There were no formal investigations in the financial years 2022/23 and 2023 /24.

There was one investigation commenced in the financial year 2024/25, which was concluded in the 2025/26 financial year. An independent investigator was appointed from an external firm of solicitors.

The costs are not yet available as there is still ongoing correspondence and the invoice from the independent investigator has not been received.

The investigation concluded that there had been no breach of the members Code of Conduct.

For example:

Year	Investigator Type	Total Cost	Hours	Outcome Type
2022/23	Freelancer	£2,000	30 hrs	Breach Upheld
2022/23	Specialist agency	£1,800	12 hrs	No breach
2023/24	Law firm	£4,000	15 hrs	Informal resolution

3. Nil responses

Please indicate if there is a nil response in any year, i.e. if there were no formal investigations.

3. Please see response to 2

4. Parishes or Town Councils – out of scope

Details of Parish / Town Council complaints which are referred to a District / Borough Council Monitoring Officer are not requested as part of this Freedom of Information Act request.