

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Ethics and Standards Committee-
Title: Monitoring Officer Code of Conduct Update-Q3 (September -December 2022)

DATE: 25 January 2023

LOCATION: Hybrid

Purpose: Information

Background

Committee will recall that the Monitoring officer reported trends for Qs 1& 2 22/23 (May-September 2022) on 13/10/22.

[Front sheet MO matters revised 2.pdf \(ceredigion.gov.uk\)](#)

Committee:

- requested to be informed in future reports of any trends that had increased/decreased
- noted the increase in recent years of trends relating to social media and online abuse.

Current position

Monitoring Officer Update-Q3 (October -December 2022)

County Council

- Councillor self-referral to PSOW::1
- Monitoring Officer referral to PSOW: none
- Monitoring Officer-witness statement-1
- Standards Hearings-none.

Assisting another local authority -1

- Adjudication Panel for Wales hearings-none

Trends:

- Acting outside remit
- bringing authority into disrepute
- failure to uphold law
- using position to advantage
- lack of respect/consideration towards officers
- threatening comments

Increase/

decrease: inappropriate use of social media

Complaints received:

- From members of public 1
- From other councillors -none
- From officers: 1

MO formal advice: 1

Political Group Leaders:

- quarterly meeting x1
- advice-to councillor in presence of PGL-2
 - training

- sharing recent APW decisions- 2
- Discussing statutory duty template

Town & Community Councils

- Advice given to clerk -1
- Formal notification of APW decision -1
- Advice given to Councillor: 1
- Clerk referrals to PSOW-1
- PSOW request for information- 1
- Standards Hearings-none
- Adjudication Panel for Wales hearings-none

Trends:

- failure to declare personal/prejudicial interests
- Failure to respect law
- bringing authority into disrepute
- failure to co-operate with clerk
- Poor culture
 - lack of respect and consideration towards Clerk
- Bulling behaviour/ harassment
 - inability to work together
 - using position to gain advantage
- •failure to consider matters objectively or on merits

Increase/decrease:

decrease: inappropriate use of social media

Conclusion:

Possible need for Town & Community Councils to have

Code of Conduct training

RECOMMENDATION (S):

To note the contents of the report

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

To inform Committee of complaints activity and recent trends

Contact Name:	Elin Prysor
Designation:	Monitoring Officer
Date of Report:	3 January 2023
Acronyms:	