

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO:	Ethics and Standards Committee
Title:	Monitoring Officer Code of Conduct Update- Quarter 1& 2 2023-2024
DATE:	15 November 2023
LOCATION:	Hybrid
Purpose:	Information

Background

Committee will recall that the Monitoring Officer reported for 2022/2023:

Q3: Committee meeting 25 January 2023.

Q4: Committee meeting 06 June 2023.

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

The Monitoring Officer Update-Q 1 & 2 (April 2023-September 2023) on Code of Conduct activity and recent trends is shown below.

County Council

- Decrease -Councillors subject to Police investigation
- Increase-lack of respect and consideration to officers
- Increase- lack of respect and consideration towards officers via social media
- Lack of respect and consideration to officers in public meetings

- Increase- Lack of respect and consideration towards officers in public meetings: impolite/disrespectful language towards officers
 - Bring Council into disrepute-social media/press
 - Racist remarks-via social media
- APW interim suspension x1:6m
- Self-referral to MO:x1
- PSOW Decision Notices:x1

Town & Community Councils

- Increase in complaints relating to behaviour- lack of respect and consideration towards members of public via social media including:
 - “crass and distasteful remark”: need for Councillor to consider how personal comments about members of the public can be interpreted/perceived by others
- Decrease in Councillors failing to declare conviction or self-report to PSOW
- Bring Council into disrepute-former Councillor: conviction
- Increase:lack of respect and consideration towards clerk in public meeting
- towards
- Assault in public place
- Racist remarks

Monitoring Officer referral to PSOW: x1

PSOW Decision Notices:x3

RECOMMENDATION (S):

To note the contents of the report

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

To inform Committee of Code of Conduct activity and recent trends

Contact Name: Elin Prysor
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Date of Report: 10/10/23