



**RHONDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**20 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES – SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS  
AGAINST MEMBERS – 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2018 – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2019**

**REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Members with a summary of complaints made against Members and submitted to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (the 'Ombudsman') for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note the contents of the report.

**3. BACKGROUND AND DETAILS OF COMPLAINTS**

- 3.1 Members will note below the summary of anonymised complaints made against Members and submitted to the Ombudsman for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019:

<b>Date Complaint Received by the Ombudsman</b>	<b>Body &amp; Councillor</b>	<b>Nature of Complaint</b>	<b>Ombudsman Investigation Yes/No</b>
22/6/18	Rhondda Cynon Taf (County Borough Councillor)	Mr C complained that Councillor A breached the Code of Conduct when she signed a police statement indicating she had seen an altercation between Mr C and another person. Mr C said the Councillor retracted the information in court and that were it not for the statement he would not have gone to court. Ombudsman found that the statement appeared to have been given in good faith and the account given in court was so similar that it appeared to be the Councillor's version of events.	Yes, but no evidence of breach

<b>Date Complaint Received By the Ombudsman</b>	<b>Body &amp; Councillor</b>	<b>Nature of Complaint</b>	<b>Ombudsman Investigation Yes/No</b>
9/7/18	Taff's Well & Nantgarw Community Council (Community Councillor)	Self Referral by a Community Councillor concerning their own behaviour and conduct which that Councillor considered was being challenged and criticised by an individual with whom he had been in contact with.	No
1/8/18	Taff's Well & Nantgarw Community Council (Community Councillor)	Complainant claimed, inter alia, Councillor X was stalking them and making false accusations against them. Ombudsman considered there to be no evidence of breach or that it would meet the public interest test to warrant an investigation if there was – note some warnings/reminders were issued by the Ombudsman to Councillor X about their future behaviour at meetings.	No
7/8/18	Taff's Well & Nantgarw Community Council (Community Councillor)	Councillor Y was accused of bullying at meetings and via correspondence between Community Councillors and that the Councillor had failed to declare what the complainant considered to be a prejudicial interest in an item of business.	No
24/8/18	Ynysybwl & Coed-Y-Cwm Community Council (Community Councillor)	Complaint concerned issues regarding elections to the Community Council and the running of the Community Council generally and linked statements made by Councillor Z (including on social media) in relation to the complainant who was making those allegations.	No

#### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

#### **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 There are no consultation implications arising from this report.

#### **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

#### **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**20 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

**Background Papers:** Freestanding matter

**Contact:** Mr. Andy Wilkins (Director of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer)  
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