

# Subject: Annual Report of the Monitoring Officer Regarding Complaints about Elected Members

Report to: Audit Panel

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Date: 19 March 2019

This report will be considered in public

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of the complaints-related matters dealt with by the Monitoring Officer under the Greater London Authority (GLA) Standards regime established under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in the period since March 2018.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Panel notes the report.**

## 3. Background

- 3.1 When establishing the Authority's current Standards regime in May 2012, the Assembly agreed that the Monitoring Officer should produce an annual report in relation to the handling of complaints made against GLA Members. This paper is the sixth such report.
- 3.2 One formal complaint about the Mayor, any Member of the London Assembly or Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime has been determined by the Monitoring Officer in the period since March 2018 (the point of the last annual report to the Panel).
- 3.3 17 complaints in total have been formally determined under the current Standards regime (as detailed in the previous annual reports to this Panel and are published on the Greater London Authority's web site [here](#)).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/good-governance/decisions-monitoring-officer>

## **4. Issues for Consideration**

- 4.1 The GLA (the Mayor and Assembly acting jointly) has established a Standards regime, under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and it has been operational since 1 July 2012, under which the Authority decided not to establish a Standards Committee but instead to delegate all complaints-related functions to the Authority's Monitoring Officer.
- 4.2 The Standards regime also includes the role of the Independent Person, a person appointed by the Authority from whom the Monitoring Officer must seek views prior to making any determinations on complaints. The GLA has appointed two Independent Persons – Mr Alan Simcock and Ms Suzanne McCarthy – whose current periods of office last until 30 June 2020. Both the Independent Persons have been involved in the process of dealing with each of the formal complaints dealt with to date.
- 4.3 In addition to managing the process for complaints made against GLA Members, the Monitoring Officer is also responsible for dealing with any complaints submitted about the conduct of office-holders of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) – namely, the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime. That regime is established under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and related Regulations and the Monitoring Officer provides regular, public update reports on those matters to the London Assembly's Police and Crime Committee. As such, MOPAC-related complaints matters are not included within this report. However, as stated above, no formal complaints have been determined in the period since March 2018 about the Mayor (in his MOPAC capacity) or the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.
- 4.4 In addition to handling complaints, the Monitoring Officer is responsible for giving advice on the registration and disclosure of relevant interests, gifts and hospitality. The current statutory regime for disclosable pecuniary interests was established by Regulations issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in June 2012.

## **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The GLA has established a Standards regime, including delegating all functions such as can be delegated in that regard to the Monitoring Officer, under the relevant provisions on the Localism Act 2011. Decisions on Standards-related matters are therefore for either the Mayor and London Assembly acting jointly or the Monitoring Officer. The Assembly's Audit Panel can, in the meantime, review the operation of the regime on behalf of the London Assembly.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

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**List of appendices to this report:**

Appendix 1 – Complaints determined

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

List of Background Papers: None

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