

Responses

Q1.

How would the Chair/ Audit Committee rate the work of the Value & Ethics committee in managing the Member complaints process, given that :

- the Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal Services (Tim O'Gara / Nancy Rollason) have appointed 3 Independent Persons unlawfully
- the Head of Legal Services failed to mention a critical Ombudsman report in her annual case management report
- the Head of Legal Services failed to mention that this Ombudsman report required the authority to amend its Members' complaints policy, which was to be discussed at a V&E meeting
- the Head of Legal Services misled Councillors at V&E committee by stating, when questioned by Cllr Goodman, that the annual case management report was in the same format as previous years. This is untrue, and as the author of that report, every year for the past 5 + years she would know that. The HOLS omitted key dates from this year's report to obscure the fact that some complaints are taking over 5 months just to be assessed (that is just to decide whether the matter is a valid complaint)
- the Independent Member who chairs V&E (Mr Adebayo) told the public raising concerns that he thinks the management of the member complaints process is "very good".

For the Audit Committee to respond

Q2.

What are the names of the 3 individuals that the Monitoring Officer says that he appointed to member complaints cases since 2019 (in his response to my supplementary question to V&E committee 3 November 2023)?

Why are these names being kept secret by the Monitoring Officer and the Head of Legal Services, who appointed them unlawfully?

The public, who have been subject to their decisions, have a right to know who they are.

Response – 1 March 2024.

**The IPs who advised the MO were
Roger Morris (IP appointed by BANES)
Tony Drew (ditto and now Bristol)
Nick Carter Brown (N Somerset)**

END