

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2003 AT 10 A.M.**

Agenda Item No.

**2**

**Update on National Developments**

Report of the County Secretary

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1. Purpose of the Report

To update the Committee on national developments in relation to ethical standards issues since their last meeting.

2. Section 66 Regulations

The Government has power, under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2000, to introduce Regulations which would allow the Standards Board to delegate the handling of less serious complaints to Standards Committees.

The Committee commented on draft Regulations at their last meeting.

The draft Regulations attracted a large number of comments. Regulations have not yet been introduced. The latest position appears to be that the Government are thinking of amending the 2000 Act itself in order to remedy what the Standards Board see as serious defects. It will take longer to introduce primary legislation than it would to introduce Regulations and it is not possible to estimate when local handling of complaints may be in place.

3. Standards Board Investigations

The Standards Board website ([www.standardsboard.co.uk](http://www.standardsboard.co.uk)) now includes a section which gives summaries of investigations, arranged alphabetically by name of authority. The section does not include any cases which have proceeded to an adjudication panel hearing. It is interesting to note that in several cases the Ethical Standards Officer has found the allegation proved, and would have referred the case to the Standards Committee for local determination if the necessary Section 66 Regulations had been in place; but because they are not, no further action is possible.

4. Roadshows

The Standards Board have conducted a series of regional Roadshows. The attached letter from David Sands describes the one he attended.