

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2003 AT 10 A.M.

COMPLAINTS TO THE STANDARDS BOARD

Report of the County Secretary

Author: Andrew Laycock 01992 555500

1. Purpose of Report

To inform the Committee of the outcome of two complaints to the Standards Board against members of the Council.

2. Complaint against County Councillor M. Green

Attached as Annex 1 is a Case Summary in relation to a complaint against County Councillor M. Green. The Ethical Standards Officer concludes that no action needs to be taken.

The Standards Board and the Ethical Standards Officer have made some significant errors in relation to this case:

- The Board failed to notify me, as Monitoring Officer, of the commencement of the investigation, in accordance with their standard practice.
- I was not sent a copy of the draft report for comment, in accordance with the Board's standard practice.
- although the case was concluded in March 2003 I was not sent a copy of the final report until 29 August after I had complained to the Ethical Standards Officer, Mr N. Marcar.

Copies of Mr Marcar's reply to my complaint, and my response to him, are attached as Annex 2. The Committee may wish to consider whether to pursue this matter further with the ESO and the Board.

Since the reply from Mr Marcar is marked 'private and confidential' Annex 2 is circulated in the Part 2 agenda. Should the Committee wish to debate this part of the item then it would be necessary to exclude the press and public and move into Part 2.

3. Complaint against County Councillor H.M. Saunders

Attached as Annex 3 is a Case Summary in relation to a complaint against County Councillor H.M. Saunders. The Ethical Standards Officer concludes that no action needs to be taken.

4. Financial Implications

None.