

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Annual Monitoring of Code of Conduct Complaints Against Members 2025-26	
REPORT OF Borough Solicitor	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Standards Committee	DATE 11 June 2026
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>This report provides an update on Code of Conduct complaints against Members.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Cheryl Hardman Principal Democratic Services Officer Camden Town Hall Judd Street London WC1H 9JE 020 7974 1619 cheryl.hardman@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>That Standards Committee notes and comment on the contents of the report.</p>	

Signed: 

Borough Solicitor

Date: 1 June 2026

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. Standards Committee is responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by councillors. As part of this work, it is responsible for the local consideration, investigation and determination of complaints. This report provides information on Code of Conduct complaints against Members during the 2025/26 municipal year. The last complaints report¹ was submitted to Standards Committee on 7 July 2025 and covered the period 1st July 2024 to 31st May 2025.

2. Feedback from Recent Complaints

- 2.1. There are relatively few complaints made about Members in Camden, which is a positive indication of the conduct of Camden's councillors. The low number of complaints has remained steady over recent years. Seven complaints were received during the 2025/26 municipal year. This can be compared with data from recent annual reporting on complaints to Standards Committee as follows:

Date range	Number of complaints
22 May 2025 – 20 May 2026	7
1 st July 2024 – 31 May 2025	11
26 th June 2023 – 30 June 2024	11
29 th June 2022 – 26 June 2023	9
29 th June 2021 – 29 th June 2022	9

- 2.2. It remains important that such complaints remain confidential so any comment on them needs to bear this in mind. An anonymised summary of the closed cases is included at Appendix A.
- 2.3. One complaint during 2025/26 proceeded to an investigation as the alleged behaviour would have constituted a breach of the Code of Conduct. During the investigation an informal resolution was agreed, with the Subject Member providing a written apology to the complainant. At this point the investigation was ceased.
- 2.4. Two complaints related to the same incident, but the councillor resigned and the complainants withdrew their complaints. A further complaint was not pursued by the complainant.
- 2.5. The Borough Solicitor and an Independent Person decided that none of the other complaints required a formal investigation as the behaviour described in the complaints would not have constituted a breach of the Code of Conduct. No decisions by the Borough Solicitor not to investigate those complaints were successfully appealed at the Local Government Ombudsman.
- 2.6. The annual data presented has previously reflected when the report has come to Committee, resulting in some inconsistency in date ranges. Annual reporting

¹ <https://democracy.camden.gov.uk/documents/s126536/Complaints%20report.pdf> [accessed: 12 May 2026]

has gradually shifted to reflect the municipal year while avoiding any significant reduction in comparability.

3. Politically motivated complaints

- 3.1. It should be noted that Camden has traditionally avoided politically motivated complaints, which has continued to be the case and has contributed to the numbers remaining very low.

4. Independent Persons

- 4.1. Our Independent Persons, who were recently reappointed by Council for another year, continue to be extremely helpful both in constructively inputting into the Borough Solicitor's decisions as to whether or not to investigate a complaint, and generally by making themselves readily available and being quick to provide responses. This outside view is extremely important and helpful in coming to a sensible decision on the complaints that are received.

5. Comments of the Director of Finance

- 5.1. The Director of Finance has been consulted and has no comments to add.

6. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

- 6.1. This is a report of the Borough Solicitor and there are no other legal comments.

7. Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no environmental implications.

8. Appendices

Appendix A: Anonymised summary of complaints 2025/26

REPORT ENDS

Appendix A

Anonymised summary of complaints (2025/26)

Substance of complaints	Reason not to investigate/go to hearing
That a councillor had acted inappropriately in a local business, citing their position as a councillor.	Withdrawn following councillor's resignation.
That a councillor had sought to use their position to benefit themselves.	Withdrawn following councillor's resignation.
That a councillor had used bullying language in emails and in person to an officer.	Investigation undertaken but informal resolution agreed before report finalised by investigator.
That a councillor had mismanaged a meeting with residents and submitted unauthorised Member Enquiries.	Not covered by the Code of Conduct. Legitimate difference of opinion in approach to case and no data protection breach found.
That a councillor did not disclose the process and outcome of a Member Enquiry.	Not covered by the Code of Conduct. Legitimate difference of opinion in approach to case.
That a councillor had harassed a constituent.	Complaint not pursued.
That a councillor had acted with a lack of courtesy to a member of the public at a committee meeting.	Webcast of meeting indicated that tone was brusque but not rude and rules for public involvement were transparent.