

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**Audit and Scrutiny Committee**  
**19 June 2014**

Agenda Item	9
Report No	AS/13/14

**STANDARDS COMMISSION: COUNCILLORS' CODE OF CONDUCT  
INVESTIGATION INTO COMPLAINTS**

**Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Development**

**Summary**

This report provides information in relation to complaints dealt with by the Standards Commission during the period 2013/14 in relation to alleged breaches of the Councillors' Code of Conduct by Members of Highland Council and the outcome of the Standards Commission's investigations into these complaints.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Committee is advised on a regular basis of complaints against Members of the Highland Council alleging breaches of the Councillors' Code of Conduct which have occurred since the inception of the Code in May 2003.
- 1.2 The previous report to the Committee, in June 2013, detailed the outcome of complaints up to 31 March 2013.
- 1.3 This report deals with complaints concluded during 2013/14.

**2. Complaints to the Standards Commission – 2013/14**

- 2.1 During 2013/14, the Public Standards Commissioner has concluded five complaints against Members of the Highland Council and the outcomes of some of these are detailed at [www.publicstandardscommissioner.org.uk](http://www.publicstandardscommissioner.org.uk).
- 2.2 In four instances none of the complaints were upheld and no Member was found to have breached the Code of Conduct. In one instance the Councillor concerned resigned and subsequently the complaint was not progressed. (See **Appendix One**).

**3 Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to note that, in respect of the complaints against Highland Council Members, concluded during 2013/14, the Standards Commission has not upheld any complaint and no Members were found to have breached the Code of Conduct.

Designation: Depute Chief Executive

Date 3 June 2014

## Appendix One

Case Ref	Complaint Subject	Outcome	Outcome Date
LA/H/1366/JM	Cllr Alex Graham	No breach	13 June 2013
LA/H/1374/A/DW	Cllr Alex Graham	No breach	20 May 2013
LA/H/1423/DW	Cllrs David Alston, Richard Laird, Kate Stephen, Allan Duffy, Alasdair Christie, Drew Hendry and Jimmy Gray	No breach	26 September 2013
LA/H/1440/DW	Cllr William MacKay	No breach	17 October 2013
LA/H/1442(3)/DW	Cllr Alex MacLeod	Councillor Resignation – complaint not investigated	3 October 2013