

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
Audit and Scrutiny Committee
18 June 2015

Agenda Item	9
Report No	AS/13/11

**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 2014/15 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 2014, detailed the outcome of complaints up to 31 March 2014 and this report deals with complaints concluded during 2014/15.
- 1.3 In terms of the number of Councillors the Highland Council is the largest local authority in Scotland. It is therefore notable that the number of complaints against Councillors during 2014/15 continued to be low.

2. Complaints to the Standards Commission – 2014/15

- 2.1 During 2014/15, the Public Standards Commissioner has concluded five complaints against Members of the Highland Council and the outcomes of these are detailed at www.publicstandardscommissioner.org.uk.
- 2.2 In all instances the outcome of the complaints was that no Councillor was found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct. (See Appendix One).

3 Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note that, in respect of the complaints against Highland Council Members, concluded during 2014/15, the Standards Commission has found that no Members were found to have breached the Code of Conduct.

Designation: Depute Chief Executive
Date: 2 June 2015

Appendix One

Case Ref	Complaint Subject	Outcome	Outcome Date
LAH1500IM	Cllr Jaci Douglas	No breach	1 May 2014
LAH1504ITM	Cllr Carolyn Wilson	No breach	9 July 2014
LAH1673IM	Cllr Liz Macdonald	No breach	20 November 2014
LAH1630JM	Cllr Thomas Prag	No breach	19 January 2015
LAH1690IM	Cllr Donnie Kerr	No breach	12 March 2015