



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

### **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

#### **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**25 APRIL 2023**

### **PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES – RECENT INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES – ‘OUR FINDINGS’**

#### **INFORMATION REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

##### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consider the summary of investigation outcomes concerning alleged breaches of the Members’ Code of Conduct as published by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) on the [‘our findings’](#) section of her website for the period 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

##### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To note and consider the contents of the summary of investigation outcomes concerning alleged breaches of the Members’ Code of Conduct, originally published by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales on the ‘our findings’ section of her website and attached as Appendix 1 to the report (for the period 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023).

##### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The PSOW considers complaints that members of local authorities in Wales have breached the Code. There are four findings the PSOW can arrive at:

- (a) that there is no evidence of breach;
- (b) that no action needs to be taken in respect of the complaint;
- (c) that the matter be referred to the authority’s Monitoring Officer for consideration by the Standards Committee;
- (d) that the matter be referred to the President of the Adjudication Panel for Wales (the APW) for adjudication by a tribunal.

It should also be noted that occasionally an investigation may be discontinued, where circumstances change during the course of an investigation and it is considered that it would not be in the public interest to continue to investigate.

- 3.2 Until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 the PSOW summarised complaints that had been investigated on a quarterly basis in a publication called the Code of Conduct Casebook (the Casebook). The final edition of the Casebook (edition 25) covered the period of January to March 2021. The Casebook has since been replaced by 'Our Findings', 'Our Findings' is a section on the PSOW website which includes a search tool to allow summaries of cases to be accessed by reference to the relevant organisation, matter type, dates, case reference numbers, or outcome. In terms of matter types, cases are broken down into the following categories:
- a. Integrity;
  - b. Promotion of Equality and Respect;
  - c. Disclosure or Registration of Interests;
  - d. Duty to Uphold the Law; and
  - e. Selflessness and Stewardship.
- 3.3 The appendix to this report contains a summary of those cases, originally published in ['Our Findings'](#) between the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**25 APRIL 2023**

**REPORT OF MONITORING OFFICER**

**PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES – RECENT INVESTIGATION  
OUTCOMES – ‘OUR FINDINGS’**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Freestanding Matter**

**Contact:** Mr. Andy Wilkins (Director of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer)