



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 25/26-217, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting information on your council's Code of Conduct investigations into councillors, for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24, and 2024/25 (taking the financial year from 1 April to 31 March.)

1. Published Reports or Online Links

Please provide the URLs or copies of any annual or quarterly reports published on your website that summarise Code of Conduct complaints, outcomes, and investigations for the above years. This may include Standards Committee reports, Monitoring Officer updates, or local governance summaries. (For this request, I am not interested in any Parish Council investigations / complaints).

2. Case-Level Investigation Data

For each individual complaint that was formally investigated (not just referred or dismissed at initial filter stage), please provide this data in a spreadsheet or CSV, one row per case:

- Financial Year
- Investigator Type
- Total Cost of case (£)
- Hours Charged in the case
- Outcome Type
- Investigator Type should be one of:
 - o Internal officer (e.g. MO/DMO)
 - o Reciprocal arrangement with another Council
 - o Independent freelancer
 - o Specialist agency (e.g. Hoey Ainscough)
 - o Law firm or solicitor (e.g. VWV, Wilkin Chapman Rollits, etc.)
 - o Other (please specify)
- Outcome Codes

Please include a basic outcome classification, such as:

- o no breach
- o informal resolution
- o breach found
- o referred to full Standards Committee, etc.

For example:

Year	Investigator Type	Total Cost	Hours	Outcome Type	
2022/23	Freelancer	£2,000	30 hrs	Breach Upheld	
2022/23	Specialist agency	£1,800	12 hrs	No breach	
2023/24	Law firm	£4,000	15 hrs	Informal resolution	

3. Nil responses

Please indicate if there is a nil response in any year, i.e. if there were no formal investigations.

4. Parishes or Town Councils – out of scope

Details of Parish / Town Council complaints which are referred to a District / Borough Council Monitoring Officer are not requested as part of this Freedom of Information Act request.

Response:

1. We do not publish annual or quarterly reports on our website.
2. In the last five years, we have only had one individual complaint that was formally investigated. The case began in 2020 and was finalised in 2022, due to the Councillor not responding to the initial complaint and then not complying with the outcome of a Finance & Assets (Ethical Governance) Sub-Committee resolution (our equivalent of a Standards Committee).
Financial Year – 2022/23
Investigator Type – Specialist Agency
Total Cost of Case – difficult to quantify
Hours charged in the case – again difficult to quantify
Outcome Type – breach found and referral to Finance & Assets (Ethical Governance) Sub Committee
3. Nil response for years 2023/24 and 2024/25.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 25/26-217.

If information has been refused, please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach foi@eastcambs.gov.uk and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.