



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,
ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 4EE

Telephone: Ely (01353) 665555

www.eastcambs.gov.uk

15th January 2024

Further to your information request FOI/EIR 23/24-393, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

1. In the last 5 years how many complaints has your council received against members of the council?
2. Can you give the above figure broken down by year?
3. How many complaints were progressed to an investigation?
4. How many complaints led to some form of standards hearing?
5. In those cases that progressed to a standards hearing, what were the charges/allegations/complaints and how many of those were upheld/found to be proved against the councillor?
6. Where allegation were upheld/found to be proved, what sanctions, penalties or punishments were imposed?
7. Please can you break the answers to 3-6 down by year or give dates for the investigations and hearings?

Response:

For the purposes of your request, I have taken your request to mean complaints that have been received in respect of Members of East Cambridgeshire District Council. I have taken your request as a whole and can confirm the following complaints were received, broken down into years:

2018 - 0

2019 - 4

2020 - 3 – 1 matter was investigated and taken to a meeting of the Finance & Assets (Ethical Standards) Sub Committee (the equivalent of a Standards hearing). The complaints were failure to treat others with respect and in doing so, their conduct brought the office of Councillor into disrepute. The Member was found to have breached the Code in respect of both allegations and the subcommittee resolved that the sanctions were to provide a written apology to the complainant, undergo training in good political debate and that a press notice was issued.

The press notice was issued but the Councillor failed to attend training or provide the written apology, so a further subcommittee meeting was held. On the day of the subcommittee, a late apology was received but the subcommittee decided this was without remorse and resolved that the Councillor should be further sanctioned by providing an actual apology within 30 days, training in good political debate should take place within 6 months and a formal censure and press notice were issued.

2021 – 9

2022 – 9

2023 – 0

Only one matter has been investigated and sanctions issued in the last 5 years.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 23/24-393.

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.