

<b>Number of Complaints Received in 2016/2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 12 Complaints</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 Hamsey Parish Council</li> <li>- 3 Lewes District Council</li> <li>- 1 Newhaven Town Council</li> <li>- 3 Peacehaven Town Council</li> <li>- 4 Seaford Town Council</li> </ul>
<b>Number of Complaints considered by the Monitoring Officer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 8 complaints were considered by the Monitoring Officer, but did not require an independent investigation</li> <li>- 1 complaint was received but the complainant did not want to take the complaint forward in an official capacity. No further action was taken.</li> <li>- 1 complaint was considered by the Monitoring Officer which warranted referral to an independent Investigator.</li> <li>- 1 complaint was considered by the Monitoring Officer which warranted investigation by the Monitoring Officer in an official capacity.</li> <li>- 1 complaint was considered by the Monitoring Officer which warranted an investigation by the Deputy Monitoring Officer in an official capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Four complaints related to allegations that Councillors had been rude and/or bullying and had shown a lack of respect. No further action was taken on three of the complaints. One of the above complaints was dealt with by the Deputy Monitoring Officer in an official capacity. During the course of the investigation the Councillor resigned.</li> <li>- One complaint was referred to an independent Investigator. The Investigator's Report concluded that the Councillor had breached the Code of Conduct. A Standards Panel was held after which the Panel determined that the Councillor had breached the Council's Code of Conduct; several sanctions were recommended including an arrangement for a one to one training session for the Councillor with the Monitoring Officer which is already in place, and to require the Monitoring Officer to cover issues raised at the Panel at that session.</li> <li>- One complaint alleged that several Councillors had breached the Town Council's data protection and security measures. After reviewing the evidence the Monitoring Officer concluded that the complaint was about Town/Parish Council operational procedures and not about councillor conduct, and so it was not within her remit; no further action was taken.</li> </ul>

- One complaint alleged that a Councillor disclosed confidential papers to a member of the public. The Monitoring Officer asked the Councillor to attend an interview after which time the Monitoring Officer found that the Councillor had breached the Code of Conduct and recommended that the Councillor be suspended from sitting on a particular Town Council committee for the remainder of the current municipal year.
- One complaint alleged that a Councillor had made remarks to the press which could be regarded as bringing the Council into disrepute. The Monitoring Officer concluded that the complaint warranted an investigation. An external Investigator concluded that the councillor was in breach of the Code of Conduct. A Standards Panel was held, after which the Panel determined that the Councillor had breached the Council's Code of Conduct and several sanctions were imposed including apologising by the way of a statement to full Council.
- One complaint alleged that a Councillor had purposely withheld information on a Register of Interest (ROI) form. The Monitoring Officer spoke with the Councillor, and it was determined that the Councillor had not breached the Council's Code of Conduct. The Monitoring Officer reminded the Councillor of the importance of keeping an up to date ROI, and recommended that the Councillor make sure all of the Councillor's ROIs were up to date with the most current information.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One complaint alleged that Councillors of a specific Committee had not acted professionally by taking into account matters which were not within the Committee's remit, which ultimately affected the Committee's decision on a particular matter. After speaking with the complainant, the Deputy Monitoring Officer concluded that the complainant's issue was not with the conduct of individual Members but with the process by which the Committee arrived at its decision. No further action was taken.</li> <li>- One complaint alleged that a member of a Town/Parish Council had not followed proper operational procedures. After reviewing the evidence the Monitoring Officer concluded that it was not within her remit but rather the responsibility of the Town/Park Clerk; no further action was taken.</li> </ul>
<b>Number of Complaints not progressed and reasons why</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- N/A</li> </ul>
<b>Number of Standards Panels held</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standards Panel held on 3 February 2017.</li> <li>- Standards Panel held on 30 March 2017.</li> </ul>
<b>Cost to the District Council of engaging investigator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 complaint warranted support from an external Investigator.</li> <li>- 1 complaint warranted investigation by an external Investigator.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The cost for the external investigator was £979.03.</li> <li>- The cost for the external investigator was £3759.48.</li> </ul>