

Number of complaints received in 2017/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8 matters of complaints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 Peacehaven Town Council - 1 Telscombe Town Council - 1 Lewes District Council
Number of complaints considered by the Monitoring Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 matters of complaint were considered by the Monitoring Officer, but did not require a formal investigation. - 2 matters of complaint were considered by the Monitoring Officer which warranted investigation. One was investigated by the Monitoring Officer personally and one was referred to an external investigator for investigation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 matter of complaint related to allegations that a town clerk and a councillor did not answer questions by a member of the public regarding financial regulations. The Monitoring Officer concluded that the matter of complaint regarding the town clerk was not within her remit. The Monitoring Officer further concluded that although the councillor did not answer questions regarding financial regulations in relation to the town council, this did not constitute a breach of the town council's Code of Conduct. No further action was taken. - 1 matter of complaint alleged that several councillors had breached the town council's Code of Conduct by contacting external auditors without approval of the town council. The Monitoring Officer concluded that although the town council's procedures required that any approach to the auditor be made through the town clerk and not by councillors, this did not constitute a breach of the town council's Code of Conduct. The Monitoring Officer advised the town clerk to remind the members concerned regarding the town council's procedures. No further action was taken. - 1 matter of complaint alleged a breach of confidentiality by a councillor in relation to sharing confidential information from a committee meeting with a member of the public. The Monitoring Officer interviewed the councillor and concluded that the councillor had

		<p>breached the town council's Code of Conduct. The Monitoring Officer recommended to the town council that the councillor not sit on the committee in question for the remainder of the 2017/2018 municipal year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1 matter of complaint alleged that a town councillor had made disparaging remarks about a fellow councillor during a committee meeting. The councillor who was the subject of the complaint admitted that an inappropriate comment was made, although a personal apology had been made and accepted at that time. The Monitoring Officer recommended that the councillor write a letter to the town clerk acknowledging that the disparaging remark made could not be substantiated and was inappropriate. No further action was taken.- 1 matter of complaint alleged that a district councillor interfered with a planning application decision. The Deputy Monitoring Officer concluded that that the conduct of the councillor did not breach any aspect of the town council's Code of Conduct and the matter of complaint did not warrant formal investigation. No further action was taken.- 1 matter of complaint alleged that a town councillor exhibited abusive and threatening behaviour towards a colleague during a council meeting. The Monitoring Officer concluded that the matter of complaint warranted an investigation. The Monitoring Officer conducted an investigation and concluded that the councillor was in breach of the town council's Code of Conduct. A Standards panel was held. The Panel determined that
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		<p>the Councillor had breached the town council's Code of Conduct. The councillor resigned from the town council prior to the beginning of the hearing. No sanctions could therefore be imposed by the town council, but as the councillor was a member of another public local authority the Panel decided it was appropriate to publish its finding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 matter of complaint alleged that a town councillor had made disparaging remarks to the press about a fellow town councillor. The Deputy Monitoring Officer concluded that although the councillor's remarks breached the town council's Press and Media Policy 2017, the remarks did not constitute a breach of the town council's Code of Conduct. No further action was taken. - 1 further matter of complaint relating to a town/parish council has been referred to an independent investigator. The investigation is still ongoing at the time this report was written.
Number of complaints not progressed and reasons why	- N/A	- N/A
Number of Standards Panels held	- 1	- Standards Panel held on 16 January 2018.

Cost to the District Council of engaging investigator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1 matter of complaint warranted investigation by an external investigator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Due to the ongoing investigation by the independent investigator, the total cost for the external independent investigator was not available at the time this report was written.
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