

PE1488/T

East Renfrewshire Council Email of 16 April 2014

Dear Mr Sharratt,

I write on behalf of East Renfrewshire Council in response to your request for information pertinent to the above Petition.

As regards elected member involvement in the formulation of policy, this Council's whistleblowing procedure (known as the Confidential Reporting Policy) is contained as an addendum to the Code of Conduct for Employees. This document was first introduced in 2001 and, having been initially drafted by officers of the Authority, was at that time put before the Standards Committee for initial consideration and comment before going to elected members in full council for agreement of its terms. At that time the Standards Committee was a standing committee of the Council comprising members representative of all political parties making up the Council.

A subsequent version of the policy has also been considered by elected members forming the Cabinet in November 2012. By this time, and as a result of the historical scarcity of matters arising before it, the Standards Committee had been discontinued as a standing committee of the Council. It does however remain an identified route which the senior officers of the Council may decide to take to progress any particular concern raised by an employee as it can be reconstituted as an ad hoc committee in terms of the Council's Scheme of Administration should the need arise.

In terms of this Council's process, the policy states that depending on the nature of the concerns brought to light, matters may be:-

- investigated internally;
- referred to the police;
- referred to the external Auditor;
- reported to the Standards Committee of the Council;
- the subject of an independent enquiry.

This reference to the Standards Committee is the basis of any ongoing elected member involvement in the operation of the policy. As indicated, references to such a committee in respect of whistleblowing matters have been negligible in number since the inception of the policy.

I hope this is of assistance. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Gerry Mahon
Chief Officer - Legal & Procurement
Chief Executive Department
East Renfrewshire Council