

Report to	Standards Committee
Date of meeting	2 nd December 2022
Lead Member / Officer	Gary Williams, Monitoring Officer
Report author	Lisa Jones, Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services.
Title	Public Services Ombudsman For Wales – ‘Our Findings’

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. The introduction of ‘Our Findings’ on the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (the Ombudsman) website

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. To inform members of the ‘Our Findings’ section of the Ombudsman’s website which replaces the previous Code of Conduct Casebook.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That the Committee notes the content of this report.

4. Report details

- 4.1. Members of the Committee will recall that the Ombudsman has previously published a ‘Code of Conduct Casebook’ (the Casebook) on a quarterly basis which set out a short summary of matters which had been investigated by the Ombudsman and the outcome that had resulted from that investigation.
- 4.2. The Casebook was regarded as a useful tool in giving elected members, the public, and standards committees an insight into the types of complaints that were being investigated and the results of those investigations.

4.3. The Ombudsman has now ceased to publish the Casebook and has instead created an 'Our Findings' section on her website which can be accessed via the following link: <http://ombudsman.wales/findings/>

4.4. The 'Our Findings' section contains a search facility whereby details of cases considered by the Ombudsman can be searched for by topic, by authority, by outcome, by date, and by case reference number. The section covers all matters investigated by the Ombudsman and not just Conduct matters.

4.5. This report covers the period from 1st July to 31st October 2022. The 'Our Findings' section of the Ombudsman's website contains a summary of those cases that have been investigated by the Ombudsman, broken down by subject matter as follows:

Integrity	1
Equality and respect	3
Duty to uphold the law	2
Accountability and Openness	1

4.6. The outcomes can be categorised as follows:

Investigation discontinued	1
No action necessary	5
Referral to a Standards Committee	1
Referral to Adjudication Panel for Wales	0

4.7. The relevant extracts from the Our Findings pages are attached for ease of reference as Appendix 1. None of the cases relate to a council in Denbighshire.

4.8. Of particular interest is the Llandovery Town Council complaint regarding a duty to uphold the law, which was referred to the Council's Standards Committee in respect of a breach of paragraph 6(1) (a) with the Member being suspended from office for 2 months and being required to attend training.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1. The report has no direct impact on corporate priorities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1. There are no costs associated with this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1. An assessment is not required for this report.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1. There have been no consultations in respect of this report.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. As stated in 6.1, there is no direct financial impact to this report.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1. There are no risks associated with this report.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. No decision is required.