



Leicester
City Council

STANDARDS HEARING SUB-COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 21 JUNE 2012

SUMMARY NOTICE OF DECISION

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Standards (Hearing) Sub-Committee Thursday 21 June 2012. Please note that the wording used here is not necessarily that which will appear in the minutes of that meeting.

HEARING OF INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT INTO A COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLORS, COMPLAINT NUMBER 2011/12

Having decided to conduct a hearing in public session, the Sub-Committee found that, in his dealings with officers that led to him being given a Parking Exemption Permit and to the cancellation of Penalty Charge Notices and the cancellation of bailiff action, Councillor Wann was acting in his capacity as a Councillor, so the Code of Conduct applied to him in those instances.

The Sub-Committee further found that:-

- Councillor Wann was in breach of paragraph 3(2)(d) of the Code of Conduct in that he acted in a way which compromised, or was likely to compromise, the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, the Council. He knew, or ought to have known, that the effect of his contacting senior officers would have the result of a failure to apply the normal rules of parking permissions and enforcement in the Council;
- Councillor Wann was in breach of paragraph 5 of the Code of Conduct, in that he had conducted himself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing his office or authority in to disrepute. A reasonable member of the public would regard his actions of by-passing normal Council enforcement and permit eligibility rules as undermining public confidence in the authority's ability to fairly enforce those rules for other people; and
- Councillor Wann was in breach of paragraph 6(a) of the Code of Conduct, in that he used his position as a Member to improperly confer or secure for himself an advantage. In his official capacity he improperly obtained a parking exemption permit (PEP) outside of the normal rules of eligibility and he obtained the discharge of enforcement action in respect of three Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs). In doing so he put his own convenience before the wider public interest in fair parking enforcement.

The Sub-Committee considered that, had suspension been available as a sanction, the Sub-Committee would have given active consideration to that, but having regard to the range of sanctions available and that Councillor Wann's actions were assisted by some senior officers of the Council, the Sub-Committee decided to censure the Councillor.

Note:

The Councillor has 28 days from receipt of the full written decision of the Sub-Committee in which to appeal against this decision.