
DECISION NOTICE

HEARING PANEL (STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE)

COMPLAINT 15/2024

Held: 21ST OCTOBER 2025

MEMBERS OF THE HEARING PANEL

Ms Fiona Barber (Independent Member) - Chair

Mr Mike Galvin (Independent Member)

Councillor Dr Susan Barton

SUMMARY OF DECISION:

The Standards Hearing Sub-Committee, having taken into consideration the written evidence and representations from the (i) Investigator Mr Alex Oram; (ii) the Subject Member Councillor Patrick Kitterick and (iii) the Statutory Independent Person Mr David Lindley finds the following:

RESOLVED:

a) **That Councillor Kitterick has breached paragraph 2(a) of the City Council's Code of Conduct by failing to treat others with respect.** On 11th November 2024 during a briefing he received from three senior officers over a matter that affected his Ward he was aggressive, angry, rude and offensive. He impugned the credibility and integrity of the officers by using language that questioned their motives, and the veracity of their briefing. His comments extended to personal criticism of officers, going beyond legitimate critique of the issues.

b) That Councillor Kitterick has breached paragraph 2(b) of the City Council's Code of Conduct by bullying. His repeated interruptions, aggressive tone and personal criticism of the Director of Housing amounted to being offensive, insulting and humiliating. This conduct went well beyond what could reasonably be considered as robust criticism of ideas, policies and issues and it amounted to a misuse of power.

c) That Councillor Kitterick has breached paragraph 2(d) of the City Council's Code of Conduct by failing to respect the confidentiality of information entrusted to him as an Elected Member. He used information provided in a briefing and disclosed it immediately to a journalist. We are satisfied that officers were clear in the meeting that the information being imparted was sensitive, and that it was being provided in confidence. Regardless of this, we find that as an experienced Councillor of over 22 years he knew, or ought reasonably to have been aware, that the content of the briefing was confidential.

d) That Councillor Kitterick has, for all of the above reasons, breached paragraph 2(i) of the Code of Conduct by bringing the Council into disrepute. His conduct has both adversely affected the reputation of the Council's Elected Members in being able to fulfil their role and has had the effect of reducing public confidence in the Council being able to fulfil its functions and duties.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Hearing Panel makes the following recommendations to the Standards Committee:

- i. Councillor Kitterick to send a written apology, within 14 days of the Committee hearing to take place on 29th October 2025, to all three officers for the disrespect shown to them.
- ii. Written censure of Councillor Kitterick by issuing of this Decision Notice to him by the Monitoring Officer on behalf of the Standards Committee.
- iii. That there be a press release of the findings

- iv. That a copy of the investigative report be released into the public domain
- v. That the findings of the Panel be reported to Full Council, with a recommendation for a motion of censure to be passed.
- vi. That the Monitoring Officer arranges training for Councillor Kitterick on the Code of Conduct.