

Standards Committee - 14th October 2009

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Joint Standards Committees : Dispensations and Other Action

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the updated Guidance on establishing and operating Joint Standards Committees; granting dispensations and other action, issued by the Standards Board for England.

Background

2. In August 2009 the Standards Board for England issued its updated Guidance on establishing and operating Joint Standards Committees, granting dispensations and other action. The Guidance is attached at Appendix 1.
3. The Guidance reflects the changes introduced by the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 and the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Regulations 2009.
4. The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 explain the steps that a Standards Committee can direct a monitoring officer to take other than carrying out an investigation into a complaint. These are:-
 - Arranging for the member to attend a training course;
 - Arranging for the member and complainant to engage in a process of reconciliation;
 - Any other steps (not including an investigation) which appear to be appropriate.
5. To date we have not had a local investigation and determination but experience elsewhere suggests that the Guidance issued by the Standards Board for England has proved to be very useful. I am sure that the updated Guidance will be of equal value should it be required.

Finance

6. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Law

7. The relevant legislation regarding the Code of Conduct is contained in Part III of the Local Government Act 2000; the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008; the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Regulations 2009.

Equality Impact

8. There are no equality impact implications arising from this report.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that this report be noted.



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List of Background Papers

None