

13 September 2005



**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

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Dear Mr Alan Eastwood

**REFERENCE: SBE8987.04**

I refer to Nick Marcar's letter of 18 April 2005.

I enclose a copy of the case summary which the Standards Board for England will shortly publish on its website, at the address given above. This summary is not confidential and may be disclosed.

We seek to publish case summaries promptly and recognise that we failed to do so here. This is due to our having focused our resources on completing a backlog of cases, which we have done successfully. Although this reallocation of resources enabled us to double the number of cases being completed each month, it meant we were unable to produce case summaries as quickly as we wished. I apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Yours sincerely

  
George Coleby  
**Investigator**

Enc.

## Case summary

<b>SBE case number</b>	SBE8987.04
<b>member</b>	Councillor Geoffrey Ainsworth
<b>authority</b>	Salford City Council
<b>allegation</b>	A member brought his office and authority into disrepute.
<b>date received</b>	30 September 2004
<b>date completed</b>	15 April 2005
<b>SBE outcome</b>	The Ethical Standards Officer found no evidence of any failure to comply with the Code of Conduct.

### summary

It was alleged that Councillor Geoffrey Ainsworth failed to treat a parking attendant with respect and brought his office and authority into disrepute. It was alleged that after being issued a parking ticket, Councillor Ainsworth assaulted the attendant and improperly used his position as a councillor by displaying council identification and threatening to 'have' the parking attendants job.

Councillor Ainsworth denied assaulting the attendant and threatening to have him fired. Councillor Ainsworth claimed that he had shown a council compliment slip rather than council identification with the intention of suggesting that the attendant treat members of the public with more respect in future.

The Ethical Standards Officer considered that Councillor Ainsworth had been acting in his private capacity and therefore the Code of Conduct had not applied. In the absence of independent witnesses, the Ethical Standards Officer was unable to conclude whether Councillor Ainsworth had assaulted the parking attendant. The Ethical Standards Officer noted that the police concluded that there was not enough evidence to proceed with the matter. In these circumstances the Ethical Standards Officer concluded that Councillor Ainsworth had not brought his office or authority into disrepute. The Ethical Standards Officer concluded that as Councillor Ainsworth had not made a complaint about the attendant that he had not improperly secured a disadvantage.

The Ethical Standards Officer found no evidence of any failure to comply with the Code of Conduct.

**relevant paragraphs of the Code of Conduct**

The allegation in this case relates to Paragraphs 2(b), 4 and 5(a) of the Code of Conduct. Paragraph 2(b) states that a member must "treat others with respect". Paragraph 4 states that "a member must not in his official capacity, or any other circumstance, conduct himself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing his office or authority into disrepute". Paragraph 5(a) states that a member "must not in his official capacity, or any other circumstance, use his position as a member improperly to confer on or secure for himself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage".

**Ends.**

Confidence in local democracy