

Bulletin

December 2002 Issue 08



Thank you to all *Bulletin* readers for your input and support in 2002. I would also like to thank all monitoring officers for their help in making the Code of Conduct work in its first year.

2003 promises to be another important and challenging year for The Standards Board. As well as the introduction of the long-awaited Section 66 regulations, we also anticipate the first decision of The Adjudication Panel for England. We continue to value and welcome your support and comments.

Allan Cairns, Chief Executive

News in brief

Section 66 regulations

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is dealing with issues raised in consultation and hopes to be ready to implement the regulations early in 2003. For further information contact Catherine Turner at the ODPM on 020 7944 6240.

Officers' Code of Conduct

A consultation paper will be available from the ODPM early in the New Year. Please contact Philip Pool on 020 7944 4177.

The Adjudication Panel for England

The Adjudication Panel is now up-and-running. The Standards Board has already referred cases to the Panel and the first case will be heard early in 2003.

For full details of Adjudication Panel members and procedures, go to www.adjudicationpanel.co.uk

Allegation by proxy

By law, The Standards Board can only consider allegations in writing from the person who wishes to make a complaint. We cannot accept allegations by

proxy, such as those made by a Monitoring Officer on behalf of an individual.

To help those who wish to make an allegation, a new complaints form is now available. To obtain a copy, please visit our website at www.standardsboard.co.uk or call 0800 107 2000.

It's a hard job...

...but somebody's got to do it. The Code could not work without the legal expertise of both monitoring officers and The Standards Board's own specialist legal team. The legal team can offer professional advice to monitoring officers in relation to the Code of Conduct. Chris Boothman is Head of Legal Services and is supported by three Legal Advisors, David Abrahams, Natalie Birtle and Claire Lefort. You can contact them on 020 7378 5038.

In your interest

Our legal team is seeking Counsel's advice, in consultation with the association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors (ACSeS), on the relationship between personal interests, prejudicial interests, predetermination and bias. The recent decision in

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Bovis Homes Ltd v New Forest District Council has complicated how legal advice is given in this area. We will report back to you with the consultation's findings.

Your feedback

Thank you again to those who responded to the questionnaire in the October *Bulletin*. Your feedback will help us to improve the *Bulletin* and the information we give to you.

The good news for us is that 96% of respondents found the *Bulletin* useful. There were some concerns over the PDF format and we are addressing those concerns.

You are keen for more information on Section 66 regulations and as soon as that information is available we will devote a special issue of the *Bulletin* to it.

Acronym(onious)

For your convenience, we list below a number of acronyms commonly used by The Standards Board:

ACSeS	Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors
ALLC	Association of Larger Local Councils
ANPA	Association of National Parks Authorities
APA	Association of Police Authorities
LGA	Local Government Association
LGO	Local Government Ombudsman
NALC	National Association of Local Councils
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
SLCC	Society of Local Council Clerks
SOLACE	Society of Local Authority Chief Executives