



REQUEST | 16921

1. Please could I request a list broken down into annual political affiliation regarding complaints made towards councillors. Please could this be from 1st Jan 2019 to 22 Aug 2024.

For example: The year 2019 | Labour Party 1 | Conservatives 5 | Independents 5 | Independent Network 10 |

2. Please could I request a list broken down into annual political affiliation regarding complaints made towards councillors that required disciplinary action after being independently investigated by the council. Please could this be from 1st Jan 2019 to 22 Aug 2024.

For example: The year 2019 | Labour Party 1 | Conservatives 5 | Independents 5 | Independent Network 10 |

RESPONSE

1. Complaints made under Members Code of Conduct 2019 to date (figures by calendar year)

2019

Labour – 10

Independent/Non-Affiliated – 10

Complaints brought by member of the public – 16

Complaints brought by an elected member – 4

2020

Labour – 6

Conservative – 2

Independent / Non-Affiliated – 10

Complaints brought by member of the public – 15

Complaints brought by elected member – 3

2021

Labour - 12

Conservative – 2

Independent / Non-Affiliated – 13

Independent Network – 1

One investigation recommended a hearing due to breach but did not occur due to decision of complainant

Complaints brought by member of the public – 24

Complaints brought by elected member – 4

2022

Labour – 12

Conservative – 5

Independent / Non-Affiliated – 9

Complaints brought by member of public – 25

Complaints brought by elected member – 1

2023

Labour – 8

Independents Together – 5

Independent Network – 4

Independent / Non-Affiliated – 1

Conservatives – 1

Complaints brought by member of the public – 16

Brought by elected Member – 3

2024 (to date)

Labour – 5

Independent / Non-affiliated – 43

Independent Network – 4

All complaints brought by member of the public

2. A Local Authority is required to have a Code of Conduct and arrangements for dealing with complaints made under its Members Code of by law (Localism Act 2011). If a Council determines, through its arrangements for dealing with complaints, that a councillor has breached the Code it may take action. This is an option of available measures such as recommending that the Member should not sit on a particular Committee. Wigan Council's arrangements provide for a Standards Sub committee to hear complaints following an investigation where there is believed to be evidence of a breach. No complaints have proceeded to a hearing in the period 1st January 2019 to date. In 2021 following investigation, it was recommended that a complaint against a Councillor from the Conservative Group should proceed to a hearing but for confidential reasons this did not happen