

Case Summary - North Tyneside Council

Case no. SFE 000034
Member(s): Mayor Linda Arkley
Date received: 19 Aug 2010
Date completed: 17 Feb 2011

Allegation:

It was specifically alleged that:

- (a) Mayor Arkley inappropriately involved herself in the process by which her assistant came to be appointed.
- (b) Mayor Arkley knowingly permitted her assistant to act unlawfully once he was in post and had not reported her assistant's unlawful actions.
- (c) Mayor Arkley provided misleading answers to questions regarding her assistant's appointment and, after subsequent internal investigations had shown these answers to be factually incorrect, had failed to correct the record.

Standards Board outcome:

The ethical standards officer found that the mayor did not breach the Code of Conduct.

Case Summary

The ethical standards officer found that Mayor Arkley had very limited involvement in the process by which her assistant was appointed and that there was no evidence that her involvement had been inappropriate. The ethical standards officer found that Mayor Arkley had not been involved in the stage of the process during which the terms of her assistant's secondment were discussed or agreed.

At the conclusion of his investigation, the ethical standards officer had uncovered no evidence which established to his satisfaction that Mayor Arkley knew her assistant was acting unlawfully, or had permitted him to act in such a manner.

In relation to the final header of complaint, the ethical standards officer found that council officers had drafted the responses to the questions asked and Mayor Arkley had provided these answers in good faith. The ethical standards officer was, however, concerned that the minutes of the council meeting in question still contained only the factually incorrect information and asked the council to consider the possibility of inserting a link which would take the reader to the subsequent corrections. The ethical standards officer did not find that any failures in this regard were attributable to unethical conduct on the part of Mayor Arkley.

Relevant paragraphs of the Code of Conduct

Relevant paragraphs of the Code of Conduct 5 & 6(b)(ii)

02 March 2011