

## London Borough of Hillingdon Members' Code of Conduct – Investigation into complaint against Councillor Anita MacDonald

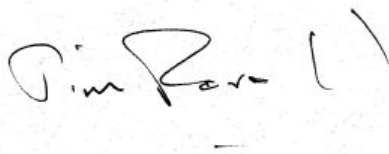
### File note

On 27<sup>th</sup> July I was telephoned by Councillor Anita MacDonald following receipt of my letter of 22<sup>nd</sup> July advising that I had been asked to carry out the investigation into this complaint. The letter was to give both parties the opportunity to provide further documentation and identify witnesses. I explained the process that I intended to follow.

Councillor MacDonald explained that she had suffered two years of harassment and bullying because she had acted as a whistleblower in expressing concerns about the use of Hillingdon Labour group funds by officers of the group. She indicated that the Labour party were conducting an investigation into her allegations but that this investigation would wait until the outcome of the current standards investigation was known. She referred to a proposed new constitution for the Hillingdon Labour group which she thought was relevant to my investigation and agreed to send me a copy.

She asked in what circumstances a standards investigation could be stopped and I advised that generally once a complaint had been sent to the monitoring officer for investigation there were very limited circumstances in which it would be stopped. An investigation would also continue even if the person concerned ceased to be a member of the local authority. I indicated that my investigation was specific to the complaint made and would not deal with the matters being investigated by the Labour party.

Councillor MacDonald indicated that she would apologise if Councillor Duncan accepted that she had behaved inappropriately with regard to the Labour group's funds. I indicated that I would still need to interview both parties to the complaint. These interviews would be carried out at a mutually convenient location and did not need to be at the civic centre.



Tim Revell  
Investigator  
27<sup>th</sup> July 2011