



**Basingstoke  
and Deane**



**working together**

**Shared Legal Services**

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council  
Hart District Council

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Cllr Laura James

Via email to

[Cllr.Laura.James@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Laura.James@basingstoke.gov.uk)

*(please quote our reference on all future correspondence)*

Your ref:

Our ref: Legal/AGR/044080 and 044295

28 November 2019

Dear Cllr James

**Formal Letter of Censure — complaints 044080 and 044295**

I refer to the above allegations made on 5th January 2018 14th March 2018.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019 the Standards Hearing Panel considered two complaints made against you relating to your actions in December 2017. A copy of the decision notice has been sent to you which finds that you disclosed confidential information without authorisation, showed disrespect to officers, and brought the office of councillor into disrepute

Your conduct as referred to in the decision letter fell well below the standard that Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council expects from its members.

The Working Together for Local People Protocol for Councillor / Officer Relations (the Protocol) provides councillors with a comprehensive guide designed to promote effective working between councillors and officers. Paragraph 19 of the Protocol provides a clear mechanism for raising issues about an officer's conduct, behaviour or performance.

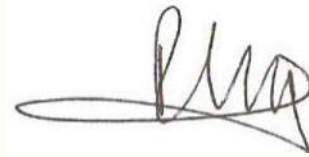
The Panel is extremely disappointed, given your long experience as a councillor, that you failed to use this procedure but instead acted in such a way as to undermine respect for an officer causing damage to the effective working relationship between officers and members and the public's confidence in the Council.

The Panel were disappointed that they were given cause to be so critical of your behaviour and censure you for your thoughtless and damaging action.

The Panel urge you to uphold the high standards of conduct that the council requires from its councillors and to be co-operative in addressing the relationship issues identified during the investigation for the good of the council and the people that it serves.

As you will note given the seriousness the Panel has referred the matter to the next full Council meeting so that all members are aware of the outcome of the Panel's decision. It is understood the matter will be treated as a confidential item given the nature of the sensitive information involved. This letter of censure will however be placed upon the Council's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. H. P.', written in a cursive style.

**Chair of the Standards Hearing Panel**