



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

Ian Bruce,  
Ethical Standards  
Commissioner

**25 February 2025**

Dear Ian,

Thank you for your letter of 6 February providing further information in response to my letter of 18 December which followed an evidence session on 19 November.

Whilst mindful of the caveats you referred to around datasets, the Committee is grateful for the statistical information you provided as an appendix to your letter. We recognise that this data is not infallible but, nevertheless, it provides a helpful illustration of volumes of complaints made by and about male and female councillors and vice versa.

However, in order to produce more robust datasets in the future, the Committee would be grateful if you could consider options for gathering data relating to the sex or gender identity of complainers and respondents in the future, such as requesting demographic data earlier in the process as you suggested might be possible.

In respect of the options you suggest for establishing whether inadmissible complaints made by councillors are made because they have not had training on the provisions of the Code of Conduct, the Committee notes that the Standards Commission for Scotland is currently undertaking research on the provision of training for councillors as we requested on 20 January. As such, we are content for you to take no further action on this for the time being. However, we agree on the value of this information and that a question on training on the code of conduct could helpfully be included in complaint forms for future years.

Yours sincerely,

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Contact: Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email: [localgov.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:localgov.committee@parliament.scot). We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

Ariane Burgess  
Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

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