

Simon Goacher

From: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 August 2024 13:35
To: Simon Goacher
Subject: FW: Standards Complaint - confidential
Attachments: Response to Complaint OMBC.docx; RE: Standards Complaint - confidential

DOCID: 64513343

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to Simon Goacher. The sender name was Paul Entwistle and the sender's email address was paul.entwistle@oldham.gov.uk

Hi,

Responses from Cllr Murphy.

Paul

Paul Entwistle
Director of Legal

From: Cllr D Murphy <Dave.Murphy@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2024 10:01 PM
To: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Standards Complaint - confidential

Good evening Paul

Please find attached and below response to the standards complaint.

Complaint ref Standards Board

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to the complaint from Cllr Arooj Shah.

I completely deny and refute the accusations made in the complaint.

The evidence provided by the complainant and included with this complaint - a video recording which shows me on a corridor I am entitled to be on, going into a room I am entitled to go in and several links does not support the accusation.

I completely deny any involvement of a recording and put it to the Labour Leader Arooj Shah that no evidence has been supplied to back up the complaint she makes against me.

Thank you for taking the time to read this response.
Dave Murphy

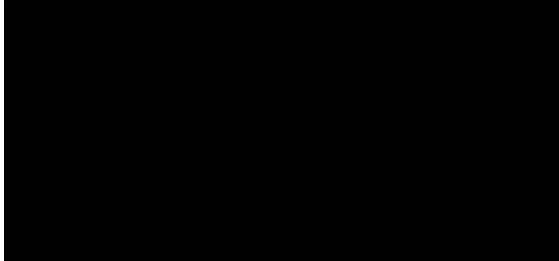
Liberal Democrat Borough Councillor for Crompton ward.

Many thanks

Best regards

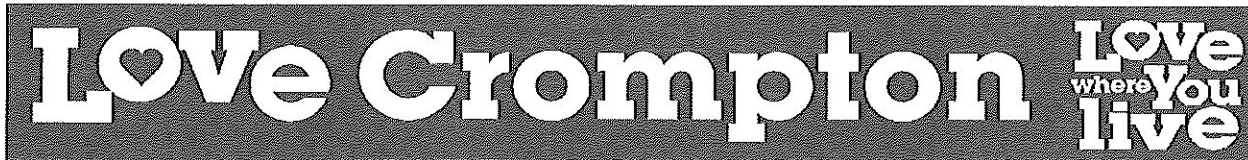
Dave

Cllr Dave Murphy
Liberal Democrat
Councillor for Crompton ward
Shadow Cabinet Member for Don't Trash Oldham



Twitter: @CllrDaveMurphy

sent from Mosshey Street



Your privacy is important to me. Your local Liberal Democrat Councillors are committed to ensuring that we are transparent about ways in which we use your personal information and who we share that with (e.g. other Councillors, Council Officers or Officers from other bodies like the NHS, Police, Transport, United Utilities, Environmental Agency etc.) to help resolve any issues you have. The Liberal Democrats will also keep in touch from time to time about issues, but you can always ask us to stop at any time.

From: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>

Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 3:40 PM

To: Cllr D Murphy <Dave.Murphy@oldham.gov.uk>

Subject: Standards Complaint - confidential

Dear Cllr Murphy,

Please see a standards complaint which has been received. Please could you provide your written comments on the complaint by the 17th June.

Regards, Paul

Paul Entwistle
Director of Legal



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named or the person responsible for delivery of the message to the above named, please delete or destroy the email and any attachments immediately.

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Legal documents: The Council does not accept service of legal documents by email.

Complaint ref Standards Board

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to the complaint from Cllr Arooj Shah.

I completely deny and refute the accusations made in the complaint.

The evidence provided by the complainant and included with this complaint - a video recording which shows me on a corridor I am entitled to be on, going into a room I am entitled to go in and several links does not support the accusation.

I completely deny any involvement of a recording and put it to the Labour Leader Arooj Shah that no evidence has been supplied to back up the complaint she makes against me.

Thank you for taking the time to read this response.

Dave Murphy

Liberal Democrat Borough Councillor for Crompton ward.

Simon Goacher

From: Cllr D Murphy <Dave.Murphy@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 August 2024 16:47
To: Paul Entwistle
Subject: RE: Standards Complaint - confidential

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon Paul

Further to your email please see below.

I feel I have already responded to the complaint; I completely deny and refute the accusations made in the complaint. I deny any involvement of a recording taking place.

Complaint ref Standards Board

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to the complaint from Cllr Arooj Shah.

I completely deny and refute the accusations made in the complaint.

The evidence provided by the complainant and included with this complaint - a video recording which shows me on a corridor I am entitled to be on, going into a room I am entitled to go in and several links does not support the accusation.

I completely deny any involvement of a recording and put it to the Labour Leader Arooj Shah that no evidence has been supplied to back up the complaint she makes against me.

Thank you for taking the time to read this response.
Dave Murphy

Liberal Democrat Borough Councillor for Crompton ward.

Best regards

Dave

Cllr Dave Murphy
Liberal Democrat
Councillor for Crompton ward
Shadow Cabinet Member for Don't Trash Oldham

Twitter: @CllrDaveMurphy



Your privacy is important to me. Your local Liberal Democrat Councillors are committed to ensuring that we are transparent about ways in which we use your personal information and who we share that with (e.g. other Councillors, Council Officers or Officers from other bodies like the NHS, Police, Transport, United Utilities, Environmental Agency etc.) to help resolve any issues you have. The Liberal Democrats will also keep in touch from time to time about issues, but you can always ask us to stop at any time.

From: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>

Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 3:44 PM

To: Cllr D Murphy <Dave.Murphy@oldham.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Standards Complaint - confidential

Dear Councillor Murphy,

Further to the e-mail below, please could you provide a response by the 15th August.

Thank you,

Paul

Paul Entwistle
Director of Legal Services

01617704822

From: Paul Entwistle

Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 5:45:52 AM

To: Cllr D Murphy <Dave.Murphy@oldham.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Standards Complaint - confidential

Dear Councillor Murphy,

I write further to your response on this matter. Myself and the independent person have considered the complaint and your response and some further information is sought from you – at the time that the meeting in the Leader's office was being recorded, were you aware that the recording was taking place ?

Yours sincerely,

Paul Entwistle
Director of Legal

From: Cllr D Murphy <Dave.Murphy@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2024 10:01 PM
To: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Standards Complaint - confidential

Good evening Paul

Please find attached and below response to the standards complaint.

Complaint ref Standards Board

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to the complaint from Cllr Arooj Shah.

I completely deny and refute the accusations made in the complaint.

The evidence provided by the complainant and included with this complaint - a video recording which shows me on a corridor I am entitled to be on, going into a room I am entitled to go in and several links does not support the accusation.

I completely deny any involvement of a recording and put it to the Labour Leader Arooj Shah that no evidence has been supplied to back up the complaint she makes against me.

Thank you for taking the time to read this response.
Dave Murphy

Liberal Democrat Borough Councillor for Crompton ward.

Many thanks

Best regards

Dave

Cllr Dave Murphy
Liberal Democrat
Councillor for Crompton ward
Shadow Cabinet Member for Don't Trash Oldham

Twitter: @CllrDaveMurphy



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From: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>

Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 3:40 PM

To: Cllr D Murphy <Dave.Murphy@oldham.gov.uk>

Subject: Standards Complaint - confidential

Dear Cllr Murphy,

Please see a standards complaint which has been received. Please could you provide your written comments on the complaint by the 17th June.

Regards, Paul

Paul Entwistle
Director of Legal

Simon Goacher

From: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 August 2024 13:33
To: Simon Goacher
Subject: FW: Standards complaint - confidential

Sensitivity: Confidential

DOCID: 64513375

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to Simon Goacher. The sender name was Paul Entwistle and the sender's email address was paul.entwistle@oldham.gov.uk

Hi,

Response from Cllr Hamblett.

He did not respond when I asked for further information as to whether he was aware of the recording when it was made.

Paul

Paul Entwistle
Director of Legal

From: Cllr L Hamblett <Louie.Hamblett@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2024 3:14 PM
To: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Standards complaint - confidential
Sensitivity: Confidential

Regarding the OMBC Standards complaint,

Councillor Louie M Hamblett, Crompton Ward.
I have been an elected member of Oldham
Metropolitan Borough Council since 2019

I am surprised by the allegations made against me. They have no foundation and no evidence is provided to support them. The complainant offers no evidence for what they allege with regard to me, therefore there is no case against myself.

The facts are I attended a meeting, went to our group room, went to the kitchen, returned, completed some tasks, and then went home.

Louie

Cllr Louie Hamblett

Liberal Democrat Crompton Ward

Liberal Democrat Parish Councillor Crompton North Ward

Shadow Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Vice Chair of The Oldham Learning Disability and Autism Collaborative

Chair of Oldham Pride

Pronouns: he/him

Office Num: 0161 770 0026

Home T: 01706660806

Oldham council website: [Crompton borough councillors](#)

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/cllrlouiehamblett/?ref=bookmarks>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LouieHamblett?s=09>

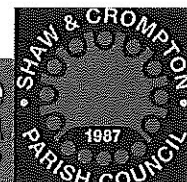
Quick links

[Report a pothole](#) | [Report fly tipping](#) | [Check roadworks](#) | [Report missed bin \(after 6pm\)](#)

[Help with Council Tax](#) | [Help with benefits](#) | [Emergency support](#) | [AV Davies Application Form](#) | [Other support](#)

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you
live**



www.disabilitylibdems.org.uk



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Open, Tolerant and United

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From: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 1:56 PM
To: Cllr L Hamblett <Louie.Hamblett@oldham.gov.uk>
Subject: Standards complaint - confidential

Dear Louie,

I have received a standards complaint which is attached . Please could you provide your written comments on the complaint by the 17th June. You may seek the views of one of the independent persons, Gillian McCarthy. If you would like to do this, please let me know and the contact details can be provided.

Regards, Paul

Paul Entwistle
Director of Legal



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Legal documents: The Council does not accept service of legal documents by email.

Simon Goacher

From: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 August 2024 13:32
To: Simon Goacher
Subject: FW: Howard Sykes -Standards Complaint - confidential
Attachments: Howard Sykes Oldham Standards response 160624.pdf; Howard Sykes -Standards Complaint - confidential

DOCID: 64513403

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to Simon Goacher. The sender name was Paul Entwistle and the sender's email address was paul.entwistle@oldham.gov.uk

Hi,

Responses from Cllr Sykes.

Paul

Paul Entwistle
Director of Legal

From: Howard Sykes <howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2024 6:23 PM
To: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Cc: Howard Sykes <howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk>
Subject: Howard Sykes -Standards Complaint - confidential

Response attached as required.

Please acknowledge safe arrival and please outline the timeline and next steps in this process please.

Many thanks.

Councillor Howard Sykes MBE

Leader of the Real Opposition.
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group Oldham Council.
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Transport in Greater Manchester.
Member for Shaw Ward.
Member for East Ward Shaw & Crompton Town Council.
Vice President Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors.
Office: Room 338, Level 3, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham OL1 1UL.
E: howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk
W: <http://howardsykes.mycouncillor.org.uk>
Twitter: @Howard_Sykes
Facebook: @Councillor.Howard.Sykes
Home: 5 Ballard Way, Shaw, Oldham OL2 8DU
E: howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk

From: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 3:30 PM
To: Howard Sykes <howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk>
Subject: Standards Complaint - confidential

Dear Howard,

Please see attached a complaint which has been made. Please could you provide your written comments on the complaint by the 17th June.

Regards, Paul

Paul Entwistle
Director of Legal



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Legal documents: The Council does not accept service of legal documents by email.

Simon Goacher

From: Howard Sykes <howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 August 2024 13:04
To: Paul Entwistle
Cc: Howard Sykes
Subject: Howard Sykes -Standards Complaint - confidential

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your further email regarding this matter.

I responded to the complaint which has no merit, and the complainant provides no evidence to support.

My response fully refuted the allegations made.

Best wishes,

Councillor Howard Sykes MBE

Leader of the Real Opposition.
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group Oldham Council.
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Transport in Greater Manchester.
Member for Shaw Ward.
Member for East Ward Shaw & Crompton Town Council.
Vice President Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors.
Office: Leader of the Opposition and Liberal Democrat Leader, Members Corridor, Level 4, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham OL1 1UL
E: howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk
W: <http://howardsykes.mycouncillor.org.uk>
Twitter: @Howard_Sykes
Facebook: @Councillor.Howard.Sykes
Home: 5 Ballard Way, Shaw, Oldham OL2 8DU
E: howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk

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From: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 3:44 PM
To: Howard Sykes <howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Howard Sykes -Standards Complaint - confidential

Dear Howard,

Further to the e-mail below, please could you provide a response by the 15th August .

Regards, Paul

Paul Entwistle
Director of Legal Services

01617704822

From: Paul Entwistle
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 5:42:35 PM
To: Howard Sykes <howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Howard Sykes -Standards Complaint - confidential

Dear Howard,

I write further to your response on this matter. Myself and the independent person have considered the complaint and your response and some further information is sought from you – at the time that the meeting in the Leader's office was being recorded, were you aware that the recording was taking place ?

Regards, Paul

Paul Entwistle
Director of Legal

From: Howard Sykes <howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2024 6:23 PM
To: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Cc: Howard Sykes <howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk>
Subject: Howard Sykes -Standards Complaint - confidential

Response attached as required.

Please acknowledge safe arrival and please outline the timeline and next steps in this process please.

Many thanks.

Councillor Howard Sykes MBE

Leader of the Real Opposition.
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group Oldham Council.
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Transport in Greater Manchester.
Member for Shaw Ward.
Member for East Ward Shaw & Crompton Town Council.
Vice President Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors.
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Twitter: @Howard_Sykes
Facebook: @Councillor.Howard.Sykes
Home: 5 Ballard Way, Shaw, Oldham OL2 8DU
E: howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk

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From: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 3:30 PM
To: Howard Sykes <howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk>
Subject: Standards Complaint - confidential

Dear Howard,

Please see attached a complaint which has been made. Please could you provide your written comments on the complaint by the 17th June.

Regards, Paul

Paul Entwistle
Director of Legal

Councillor Howard Sykes MBE

**For the attention of the Council's Monitoring Officer
Paul Entwistle**

**Complaint submitted to Oldham Council
by Cllr Arooj Shah.**

Response:

Thank you for a copy of the unfounded complaint submitted by Cllr Shah and received by me on 3 June.

For clarity, I completely reject the allegations.

The complainant has provided no evidence to support their allegations. Instead, they rely on commentary, which is clearly opinion and supposition, with no basis in fact.

The allegations are, I believe, a clear attempt to discredit me. The factual evidence for this is the media release by the Labour Party issued, which the complaint clearly facilitated, calling for my resignation. The media release was issued shortly after the complaint was submitted, and clearly prepared in advance.

I believe the very act of issuing a media release relating to a submitted Standards Complaint both indicates the vexatious nature of the allegations and, in itself, is a potential breach of several aspects of the Members Code of Conduct.

Response submitted 16 June 24.

16 June 24

Councillor Howard Sykes MBE

Leader of the Real Opposition.

Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group Oldham Council.

Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Transport in Greater Manchester.

Member for Shaw Ward.

Member for East Ward Shaw & Crompton Town Council.

Vice President Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors.

E: howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk

W: <http://howardsykes.mycouncillor.org.uk>

Twitter: @Howard_Sykes

Facebook: @Councillor.Howard.Sykes

Home: 5 Ballard Way, Shaw, Oldham OL2 8DU

Simon Goacher

From: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 August 2024 13:30
To: Simon Goacher
Subject: FW: Standards complaint - confidential

DOCID: 64513476

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to Simon Goacher. The sender name was Paul Entwistle and the sender's email address was paul.entwistle@oldham.gov.uk

Hi,

Response from Cllr Kenyon.

Paul

Paul Entwistle
Director of Legal

From: Cllr M Kenyon <Mark.Kenyon@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 2:58 PM
To: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Standards complaint - confidential

Dear Mr Entwistle

I write in response to the complaints made against me regarding the events of Monday 20th May 2024.

Firstly I offer a sincere and unreserved apology to all those who were involved and attended the meeting on that date. Upon reflection, I recognise that I should not have used my phone to record the events in the heat of the moment and I really regret doing so - if I could turn back the clock, I absolutely would do.

I would be tremendously grateful if you would pass on my apology to the complainants and others present at the meeting.

I also apologise to the Council and recognise that this is not the standard of conduct that should be expected of a councillor.

For clarity, no special listening device was used. I could clearly hear what was being said in the room when standing in the corridor. Mindful of all the intensity of discussions around the council administration following the elections in May, what the various parties meeting in that room had publicly said or written about each other and my belief about the role of the Chief Executive in these discussions I decided in the spur of the moment to record what I could clearly hear in the corridor and then share them believing it would be likely to be shared further. I absolutely recognise that this was the wrong action to have taken.

Best regards
Mark

f: fb.me/MarkKenyon4GSL
e: mark.kenyon@oldham.gov.uk
e: MarkKenyon101@gmail.com
t: 07971 363 790

Mark Kenyon
Oldham Borough Councillor | Saddleworth West and Lees

Your privacy is important to me. Your local Liberal Democrat councillors are committed to ensuring that we are transparent about ways in which we use your personal information and who we share that with (e.g. Councillors, Council Officers or Officers from other bodies like the NHS, Police, Transport, United Utilities, Environmental Agency etc.) to help resolve any issues you have.
The Liberal Democrats will also keep in touch from time to time about issues, but you can always ask us to stop at any time.

From: Cllr M Kenyon <Mark.Kenyon@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 9:46:13 PM
To: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Standards complaint - confidential

Hi Paul

By way of further explanation, I'm uncomfortable submitting a response prior to FC tomorrow as the Leader ignored previous advice not to discuss the matter.

I'll leave it up to you as to whether you share that with her, but in the interests of trying to calm things I'd prefer it if you didn't.

Best regards

Mark

f: fb.me/MarkKenyon4GSL
e: mark.kenyon@oldham.gov.uk
e: MarkKenyon101@gmail.com
t: 07971 363 790

Mark Kenyon
Oldham Borough Councillor | Saddleworth West and Lees

Your privacy is important to me. Your local Liberal Democrat councillors are committed to ensuring that we are transparent about ways in which we use your personal information and who we share that with (e.g. Councillors, Council Officers or Officers from other bodies like the NHS, Police, Transport, United Utilities, Environmental Agency etc.) to help resolve any issues you have.
The Liberal Democrats will also keep in touch from time to time about issues, but you can always ask us to stop at any time.

From: Cllr M Kenyon <Mark.Kenyon@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 4:20:59 PM
To: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Standards complaint - confidential

Hello Paul

Yes absolutely I will be doing - please my apologies for the delay.

Best regards

Mark

f: fb.me/MarkKenyon4GSL
e: mark.kenyon@oldham.gov.uk
e: MarkKenyon101@gmail.com
t: 07971 363 790

Mark Kenyon
Oldham Borough Councillor | Saddleworth West and Lees

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From: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 10:47:31 AM
To: Cllr M Kenyon <Mark.Kenyon@oldham.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Standards complaint - confidential

Dear Mark,

Are you able to provide your response ?

Regards, Paul

Paul Entwistle
Director of Legal

From: Cllr M Kenyon <Mark.Kenyon@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2024 2:25 PM
To: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Standards complaint - confidential

Morning Paul

Please do accept my apologies - it's not going to be possible to offer a reply by today.

Best regards

Mark

f: fb.me/MarkKenyon4GSL
e: mark.kenyon@oldham.gov.uk
e: MarkKenyon101@gmail.com
t: 07971 363 790

Mark Kenyon

Oldham Borough Councillor | Saddleworth West and Lees

Your privacy is important to me. Your local Liberal Democrat councillors are committed to ensuring that we are transparent about ways in which we use your personal information and who we share that with (e.g. Councillors, Council Officers or Officers from other bodies like the NHS, Police, Transport, United Utilities, Environmental Agency etc.) to help resolve any issues you have. The Liberal Democrats will also keep in touch from time to time about issues, but you can always ask us to stop at any time.

From: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 1:52 pm

To: Cllr M Kenyon <Mark.Kenyon@oldham.gov.uk>

Subject: Standards complaint - confidential

Dear Mark,

I have received a standards complaint which is attached . Please could you provide your written comments on the complaint by the 17th June. You may seek the views of one of the independent persons, Gillian McCarthy. If you would like to do this, please let me know and the contact details can be provided.

Regards, Paul

Paul Entwistle
Director of Legal



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Oldham Council

Weightmans reference: SIG/433873/97

Report of an investigation into allegations concerning the conduct of
Councillors Louie Hamblett, Mark Kenyon, David Murphy and Howard
Sykes

SG 11

Simon Goacher

From: Cllr L Hamblett <Louie.Hamblett@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: 05 June 2025 14:29
To: Simon Goacher
Subject: RE: Complaint Against You: Draft Report

DOCID: 70496125

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to Simon Goacher. The sender name was Louie.Hamblett@oldham.gov.uk and the sender's email address was louie.hamblett@oldham.gov.uk

Dear Mr Goacher, please find the response to draft report:

Page 31

Bullet 21.

Member's Official Details are not correct as the Pennine Care NHS Trust - Joint Mental Overview & Scrutiny Committee I am listed as Substitute **I** **was in fact OSP from Oldham and still am.**

Page 32 Background

Bullet 29.

Lab 27
Lib Dem 9
Con 8
Fip 2
RIP 2
TOG 6
LAB IND 2
SHAW IND 2
Failsworth Ind 2

Page 36

Bullet 38. Reason for delayed response "I was offered the chance to seek advice on which I did and thus was awaiting their guidance on the matter"

Page 46

Evidence of Cllr Hamblett

Bullet.93/94 Cllr Hamblett explained that the former Liberal Democrat group room used to be one largish room with a table and several desks in it. He stated that he went in just to do some case work, print some documents and do notes and things.

Owing to my sensory needs I tends to wear headphones or earpieces to avoid loud noises or drown out the background noise and listen to music and this is the reason I was not aware of recording of any recording.

Page 46

Bullet. 95 (First paragraph Reason for delayed response as I was offered the chance to seek advice on which I did and thus was awaiting their guidance on the matter)

Page 55/56

Findings of the fact

Bullet. 146 (b) I was not aware that Cllr Kenyon made the recording until I later saw this on social media later that evening.

(reason given under Bullet. 93/94)

Bullet. 147 (b) line 8 Cllr Hamblett's evidence is credible as demonstrated under - Bullet 147 (c) Cllr Hamblett left to make a cup of tea and entered the liberal democrat's group room whilst wear headphones and got in with work, he was not aware of what had transpired

Bullet 156. Cancels out 147 (b) Line 8 - "Clearly indicates that Cllr Hamblett was not aware of the recording being taken place at the time"

Page 61

Bullet 169. *(This is a matter of opinion and please see my response under Page 36)*

My kindest regards and best wishes,

Louie

Cllr Louie Hamblett
Liberal Democrat Crompton Ward
Liberal Democrat Councillor for Crompton North Ward
Shadow Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Vice Chair of The Oldham Learning Disability and Autism Collaborative
Chair of Oldham Pride
Pronouns: he/him

Office Num: 0161 770 0026

Home T: 01706660806

Oldham council website: [Crompton borough councillors](#)

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/cllrlouiehamblett/?ref=bookmarks>

Quick links

[Report a pothole](#) | [Report fly tipping](#) | [Check roadworks](#) | [Report missed bin \(after 6pm\)](#)

[Help with Council Tax](#) | [Help with benefits](#) | [Emergency support](#) | [AV Davies Application Form](#) |

[Other support](#)





LGBT+ Lib Dems | Liberal Democrat Disability Association | Oldham Liberal Democrats |

For a Fair Deal,

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From: Simon Goacher <Simon.Goacher@Weightmans.com>

Sent: 22 May 2025 10:19

To: Cllr L Hamblett <Louie.Hamblett@oldham.gov.uk>

Subject: Complaint Against You: Draft Report

Dear Cllr Hamblett

I attach my draft report in respect of the complaint made against you.

In accordance with the Council's procedure I am giving you and the complainant an opportunity to comment on the draft report. Any comments which I receive by email by 5.00pm on 6 June 2025 will be considered in finalising my report. Any comments received after that date will not be considered.

I remind you that, at this stage, the process is confidential and you must not discuss or share the report or its contents, in whole or in part, with any other person without first obtaining my consent to do so. This does not prevent you sharing it with a solicitor for the purpose of obtaining legal advice, if you wish to do so.

Yours sincerely

Simon Goacher
Partner
Weightmans LLP



Tel: 0345 073 9900 /ext 139582

DDI: 0151 243 9582

Simon.Goacher@Weightmans.com

<https://www.weightmans.com>

140 specialism rankings and 563 individual rankings in Chambers and Legal 500



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Cyber crime and fraud alert

Please be aware that we do not send notifications of changes to our bank details by email. Fraudsters have been impersonating law firms and some clients of law firms have been tricked into forwarding monies to them. If you receive an email that appears to come from us, providing different bank details to the ones we supplied at the outset of the matter or indicating a change in our bank details, please contact the fee earner dealing with your matter by telephone immediately. Do not reply to the email or act on any information contained in it. We will not accept responsibility if you transfer money into an incorrect account. Nothing in this email can be considered to create a binding contract

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Our standard terms of business apply to every retainer we enter into. They can be accessed on our website at <https://www.weightmans.com/media/m4dhyjwo/weightmans-terms-conditions.pdf>



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Oldham Council

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Report of an investigation into allegations concerning the conduct of
Councillors Louie Hamblett, Mark Kenyon, David Murphy and Howard
Sykes

SG 12

Simon Goacher

From: Cllr M Kenyon <Mark.Kenyon@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: 05 June 2025 15:37
To: Simon Goacher
Subject: standards complaint response
Attachments: image001.png; image002.jpg; image003.jpg

DOCID: 70496088

This message originated from outside our organisation and was sent to Simon Goacher. The sender name was mark.kenyon@oldham.gov.uk and the sender's email address was mark.kenyon@oldham.gov.uk

Mr Goacher

Please find my response enclosed to your draft report.

Para 29 – the results are incorrect. Correct results to the election in 2024 are: labour 27, liberal democrat 9, conservative 8, the Oldham Group 6, shaw and Crompton independent 2, FIPs 2, Royton Independent 2, and then 4 independent members comprising independent ex labour 2 & independent ex FIP 2.

Para 36 – my apology is not dated. It should be. Please insert the date the apology was tendered (19th July 2024), and that I acknowledged what I had done, apologised to all the participants in the meeting, and that the previous Monitoring Officer failed to pass on those apologies. It should also be noted that LGA advice is that apologies should be given via the monitoring officer, as direct apologies have been criticised in previous cases. My apology is enclosed for reference.

From: Cllr M Kenyon <Mark.Kenyon@oldham.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 2:58:28 PM
To: Paul Entwistle <Paul.Entwistle@oldham.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Standards complaint - confidential

Dear Mr Entwistle

I write in response to the complaints made against me regarding the events of Monday 20th May 2024.

Firstly I offer a sincere and unreserved apology to all those who were involved and attended the meeting on that day. In reflection, I recognise that I should not have used my phone to record the events in the heat of the moment and I am doing so - if I could turn back the clock, I absolutely would do.

I would be tremendously grateful if you would pass on my apology to the complainants and others present at the meeting.

I also apologise to the Council and recognise that this is not the standard of conduct that should be expected of a councillor.

For clarity, no special listening device was used. I could clearly hear what was being said in the room when standing in the corridor. Mindful of all the intensity of discussions around the council administration following the elections in May 2024, various parties meeting in that room had publicly said or written about each other and my belief about the role of the Executive in the these discussions I decided in the spur of the moment to record what I could clearly hear in the corridor and then share them believing it would be likely to be shared further. I absolutely recognise that this was the wrong action taken.

Best regards

Mark

f: fb.me/MarkKenyon4GSL
e: mark.kenyon@oldham.gov.uk
e: MarkKenyon101@gmail.com
t: 07971 363 790

Mark Kenyon
Oldham Borough Councillor | Saddleworth West and Lees

Para 53 – I have apologised.

Para 65 – Cllr Hince has suffered the effects of his own actions. The criticism of Cllrs Hince and Navesey are a result of their own broken promises to their electorate (“[we] will not form any coalition with the Labour Party..... Such a move would be contrary to our values and.....would be a betrayal of the trust we have built up within our local communities” Cllr Hince prior to the local elections in May 2024 see below and enclosed). I have acknowledged that the recording worsened the atmosphere and apologised for that.

Although as you can appreciate our current focus is on May 2nd. I can give assurances on behalf of The Independent Group. That any of our current serving councillors and associated candidates for the upcoming election. Will not form any coalition with the Labour Party.

As you are very well aware, such a move would be contrary to our values and principles and would be a betrayal of the trust we have built up with our local communities.

Regards

Marc Hince MBA MCMI
Leader of The Independent Group OMBC

Para 67 – incorrect. I asked him whether he was voting to support Labour. There is no evidence to support his claim, so it is completely unfair to conclude that he was abused.

Para 70 – Cllr Hince has not made any complaint to the Liberal Democrat party. Why would they then inform him of the outcome?

Para 74 – Cllr Hince is not privy to any information about the complaint, as he is not a party to it.

Para 76 – I have apologised on 19 July 2024

Para 80 – This did not happen.

Para 107 – This is the advice given by the LGA about apologising in this situation.

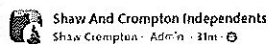
Para 147 a) You claim that the CCTV is inconsistent with my statement about using my phone to record the meeting. In what way? I placed my phone on the ground, and moved away. I then retrieved my phone. This is exactly what is shown on the CCTV. Your conclusions are unsupported opinion and undermines my statement without any evidence.

Para 147b) – my recollection is 100% about the key facts as I made contemporaneous notes. I assume that the recollection of other parties was compromised by the fast pace of events, and the numerous times this matter was discussed in public at full council against the monitoring officer's advice, the facebook posts by Cllrs Hince and Navesey (including edited CCTV footage taken from the Civic Centre), the leaflet produced and distributed by Hince and Navesey and the Labour press release that was covered by BBC and Reach Media outlets.

You also stated that it is "inconceivable" that I would pass on a recording to others without talking to other councillors first. I stated that my reason to pass it on to a third party was to ensure that people listening to it for the first time would see it as a politically neutral act. Discussing it with colleagues would undermine exactly that intent.

Para 152 – see para 36

Para 156 – my notes are private. Nowhere in the standards process does it say that personal notes must be handed over to the standards process. Your conclusions are complete supposition and without basis. You have equated privacy with guilt and completely ignored the potential for abuse that releasing these notes to you could have. This whole standards enquiry has suffered leaks, news stories, facebook posts, speeches in the chamber and also release of excerpts of your own draft report. Why would I release private notes to a process that could very easily be published on Facebook soon after?



Shaw And Crompton Independents
Shaw Crompton · Admin · 21m ·

BREAKING NEWS!

After an independent inquiry.

Oldham Liberal Democrats councillors:

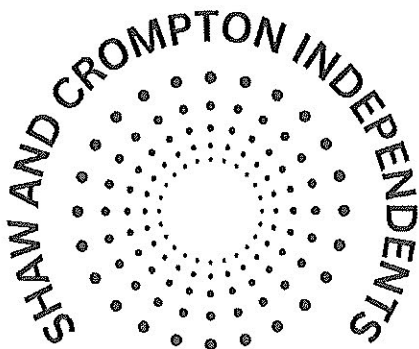
Howard Sykes

Dave Murphy

Mark Kenyon

Have been found in breach of the OMBC's code of conduct!

MORE TO FOLLOW ON THIS STORY AS IT BREAKS!!!



LET'S MAKE OUR TOWN BETTER (✓)

You have stated that not revealing the identity of the third party was a failure to cooperate with the investigation. I explained why I thought that this information was not relevant to the investigation, and you did not challenge that explanation during our interview. It seems contrary to now claim that this was a failure to cooperate.

Para 164 - there is absolutely no evidence of "sophisticated spyware" (this phrase in itself is loaded and biased as it is lifted straight from the ex chief exec's complaint and subsequent Labour press release). If there is evidence to challenge my own account that merely my own phone was used, then you should include it in your report eg a screengrab from CCTV. All the available evidence is completely supportive of me using my only phone, as I stated. Why are you repeating an allegation which has no evidence, merit or support, and denying a statement of facts without any evidence?

Para 171 – I sought advice as I was recommended to. Any inconsistencies in the accounts of my colleagues is not evidence of collusion. I'd also add that your argument is not impartial and is fallacious; on one hand you argue that consistency is evidence of collusion (eg about face-to-face meetings), on the other hand you argue that an inconsistent account is evidence that someone is not telling the truth. Your claim of (in)consistency cannot be used to support two opposing arguments.

Para 174 – I was asked to be interviewed six months after I had already acknowledged my error, and apologised for it. There is no evidenced conclusion in this report which goes beyond my statement and apology. Any costs that have been incurred at this point are caused by the failure of the monitoring officer to follow process, and pass on the apology and acknowledgement.

Further, the complainant and the witnesses to the incident have repeatedly breached the confidentiality of the complaints process, in direct violation of instructions from the monitoring officer. Ensuring that I did the most I could to ensure that I was confident in this part of the process seems not just justified, but essential.

I'd also like to address your comment on my own defence of public's right to know. You have no evidence to conclude that my own motivations are not what I have stated ie public right to know. You might not be happy with the reasons I have provided, but without any evidence to the contrary you are happy to state that my motivation of the public's right to know is false. This is unfair and has no merit.

To give an example of what I think the public should know is the chief executive can be clearly heard in the recording to state that he would only give "the full picture" to groups who were part of the agreement, and that they would

help them "make a narrative" to explain things to people. This goes considerably beyond "facilitating and brokering discussion" and in my opinion is the supposedly politically neutral most senior officer engaging in political campaigning.

I enclose a complete transcript of the recordings below for inclusion in your report.

Recording 1

?? It's a league. It's gone off on it because, you know, and in general terms, every council meeting is nearly spoilt by it.

AroojSHah: "Yeah."

?? And then it goes out it doesn't go right.

HarryCatherall "They should ...

?? it'll get worse and worse and worse.

AS: "You can bring it in to the next full council."

HC: "You can mention it almost immediately, but it will go to July Council meeting.

?? Right.

HC: "If you've done the work about it to turn it around, and then it's away isn't it."

AS: "And the difference here is, Mark, and this is really, really important, you know. Like you said before, you will have officer support, so everything will be right, everything will be checked out, everything will make ... The officers will make sure it is solid because ..."

Recording 2

MarchHince: Two streets where they are not bothered.

?? Correct yeah, but the guidance for people.

MH: Have you got one?

AS: What you have got to understand in this is Marc, what you've got to understand is that it is in my interest for me to make this work.

MH: Yeah.

AS: So there's no there's nothing about it, you know? So once we get the briefing done the whole purpose of them briefings [...] as well. is that we are all averse. And so we know exactly what we saying. how we sign a statement around IX Wireless and stuff like that. It's just not significant enough to be included

MH: No, no, no, I understand that.

HC: And also, what we do in the private room is, this is this factually is where we are, we share with you a full picture.

MH: Yeah.

HC: So you don't go fighting something that you're desperately going to lose.

MH: Yeah.

HC: Nobody wants to do that. Yeah. If we spell out the law to you, and update it, most people, as Marc said, don't want to listen. don't want to believe it. We'll spell it out to you. And then actually you take a position, a very plain narrative. So know you're not setting yourself up to fail.

MH: Yeah.

HC: It's dead easy to set yourself up to fail in some of these contexts.

[...]

AS: I've got emails that I sent to IX Wireless it was everything I fought for But it was just not good enough. And I my personal view is that Lewis was in her head.

MH He is now. He's trying to use. He's trying to use. Because I said to him today, I said, we need to come using this to try to use emotive subjects like Palestine, IX, whatever it might be, you know, generate this "Labour out" at all costs. [...]

AS: Time and actions will prove stuff.

MH: I'm signing this?

AS: Yeah. [...] whatever you want?

MH: No, are we in agreement? [...] Lee?

[...]

Best regards

Mark

f: fb.me/MarkKenyon4GSL

e: mark.kenyon@oldham.gov.uk

e: MarkKenyon101@gmail.com

t: 07971 363 790

Mark Kenyon

Oldham Borough Councillor | Saddleworth West and Lees

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Sykes

SG 13

Good afternoon Simon

Thank you for the draft report.

Firstly, I would like to make you aware that the findings from your Draft - Confidential Report has been circulated on social media by the Shaw and Crompton Independents.



Shaw Crompton



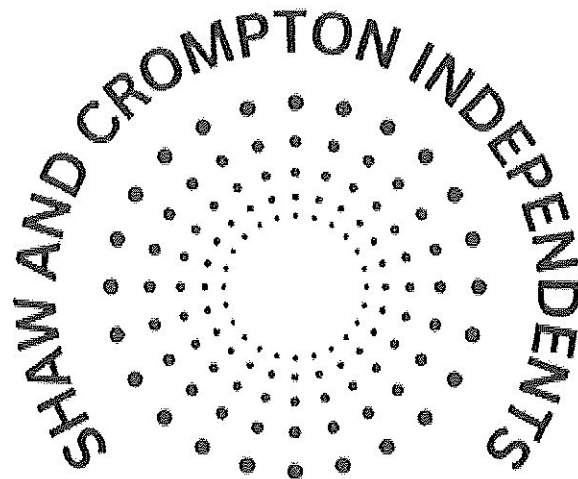
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BREAKING NEWS!

**After an independent inquiry.
Oldham Liberal Democrats councillors:**

**Howard Sykes
Dave Murphy
Mark Kenyon**

**Have been found in breach of the OMBC's
code of conduct!
MORE TO FOLLOW ON THIS STORY AS IT
BREAKS!!!**



LET'S MAKE OUR TOWN BETTER ✓

👤 6

3 comments

👍 Like

💬 Comment

📧 Send

Would you please confirm who has seen your draft report? and if the same instruction I was given applies to them, have they have gone against your direct instruction? and if so, what action you will be taking?

I remind you that, at this stage, the process is confidential and you must not discuss or share the report or its contents, in whole or in part, with any other person without first obtaining my consent to do so.

And in the report

The contents of this report and any accompanying documents are confidential and must not be disclosed.

I am grateful for your conclusion that there has **not** been a failure on my part in the code of conduct in relation to the recording.

I am however extremely disappointed in your report which says **(4)** there has been a failure to comply with the Code with them **(me)** as they **(I)** have not co-operated with the investigation process.

(169) Cllrs Hamblett, Murphy and Sykes all refused to answer a simple question from the Monitoring Officer when he asked them if they were aware that the recording was being made at the time.

This was a simple question and highly pertinent to the complaints being made against them. They have given no satisfactory explanation of why they did not answer this straightforward question. In my view their failure to answer a straightforward question with an answer amounts to a failure to co-operate with a code of conduct

I find this an unfair assessment, and untrue I have fully co-operated with the investigation and have done so in a timely manner, I have been fully open and co-operative, the further question asked of the then Borough Solicitor I believed I had already provided a satisfactory answer. No involvement means no involvement. Your "view of none co-operation" is not fact the facts are the aforementioned.

If I had not co-operated at all then I could accept the conclusion, at worst, it is a misunderstanding of what the exactly the Borough Solicitor required. I did respond to him and I thought the answer was clear on both occasions.

Using the test of (149)

The test in deciding whether or not there has been a breach of the code is objective: would a reasonable person be aware of all the material facts and ignoring all immaterial factors consider that there has been a breach of the code?

I believe a reasonable person would say that apart from the misunderstanding he has fully co-operated with the investigation and should not be labelled as 'not co-operating'.

I respectfully request that I should be given the benefit of doubt and ask that you remove my name from your conclusion (175 ii) in that I have breached the code in none co-operation.

I would like to address (170 – 171) it feels like you are suggesting some sort of pre-discussion. On your written instruction I sort advice, that advice was if possible, to avoid an online meeting, and to request a face to face meeting the rationale being in the toxic world I now find myself in at Oldham Council who else is in the room behind the camera? But more importantly I want the investigator to look me in the whites of my eyes and see for themselves that I am fully co-operating, open, honest and respectful of the investigation.

(128 / 129) mentions the video and leaflet please see evidence to support, you will see members of the public had the option to view the CCTV footage.

The leaflet circulated to households in Shaw and Crompton was an attempt to sway public opinion and discredit the Liberal Democrat Councillors.

The video created for the Shaw and Crompton Independents and circulated by Cllr Lisa Navesey whose name appears at the bottom was then put on social media. It is yet another attempt to discredit and both show utter contempt for an independent investigation.

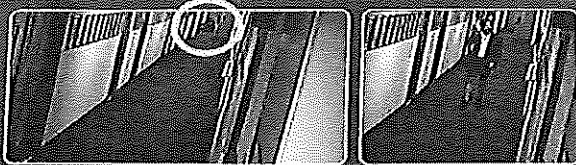
LIB DEM NONSENSE AND THE FACTS

A Lack of Standards, Respect and Trust – The Lib Dem Spy-Gate Scandal

After the local elections in May, the Council fell into no overall control, meaning no one party or group could form an administration. It was therefore up to parties and independent groups to form coalitions or working agreements to try to form an administration to run the council.

This required meetings with different parties and groups to try to establish common grounds. It is accepted these meetings are in private and many discussions took place between groups/parties. Outrageously, the Lib Dems recorded our meeting with the Labour administration, who they had met in private three days before, then released snippets of the recording on social media.

At a time when feelings were running high, consequently both Cllr Hince and Navesey received horrendous abuse online, including death threats, which were no doubt fuelled in a large part by the actions of the Lib Dems. We still await the outcome of an internal Lib Dem inquiry, however at least one councillor remains suspended by the party. Are these the standards you expect from your elected representatives?

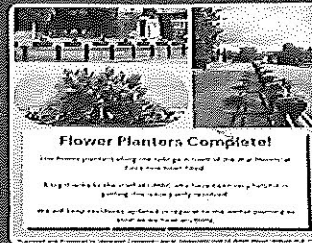


WATCH THE CCTV FOOTAGE ON OUR FB PAGE:
SEARCH, SHAW & CROMPTON INDEPENDENTS



JOIN WITH US, AND TOGETHER, LET'S MAKE SHAW & CROMPTON BETTER!

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Website www.sclIndependents.co.uk • Email info@sclIndependents.co.uk

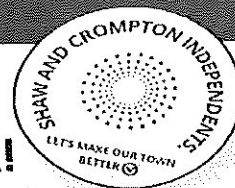


Where Have All The Flowers Gone?

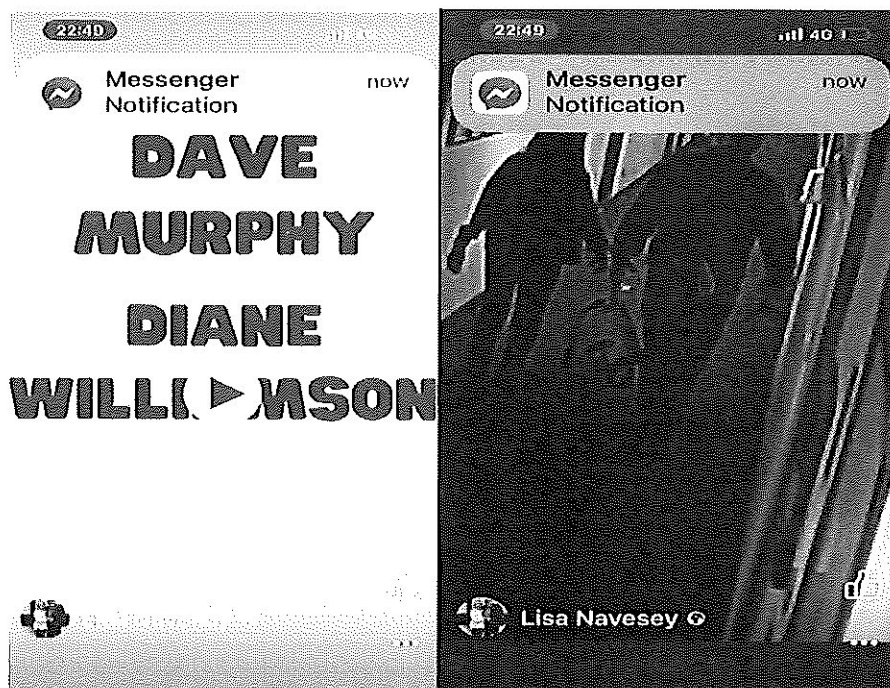
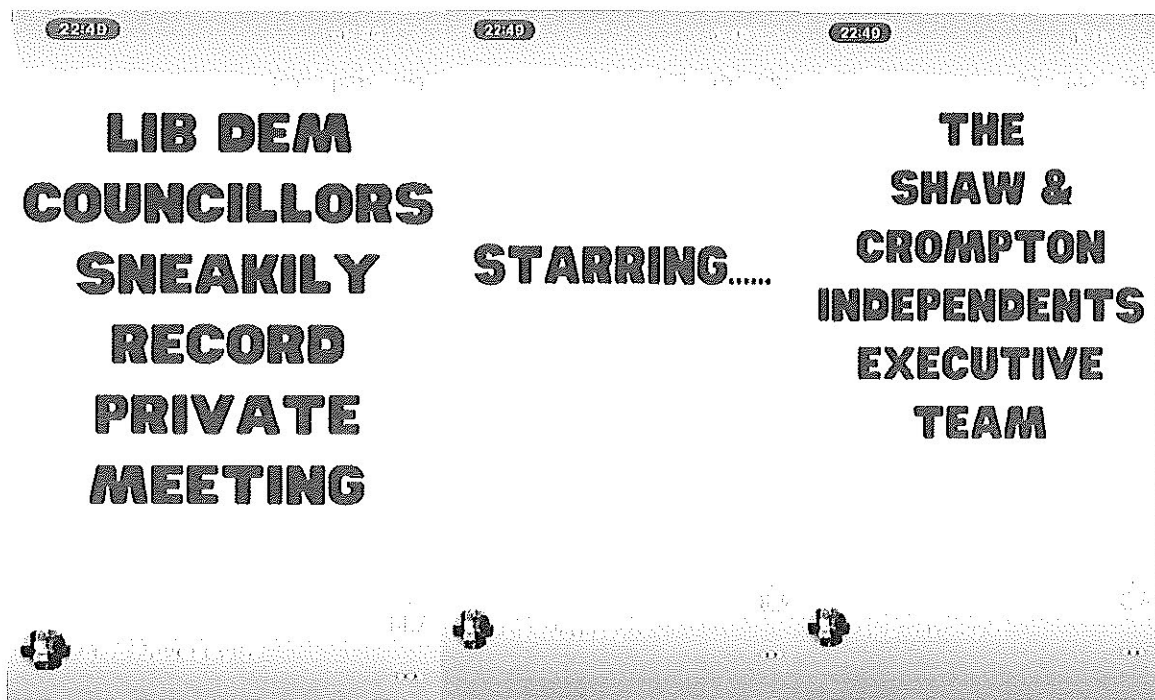
Despite repeated requests, DMBC failed to fill the flower planters for winter along Crompton Way and near the Cenotaph.

Both the Liberal Democrat Councillors and the Town Council provide funding for this seasonal planting. Whilst the Shaw & Crompton Independents ensured the Town Council's obligations were fulfilled, we are still waiting for the Lib Dems to fulfil theirs. This of course did not stop the Lib Dems from trying to take the credit!

As their motto goes - "Why do the work, just take the credit!"



Several stills from the video (which I will try to attach to the email.) each member accused gets mentioned.



In addition, there are some further factual inaccuracies.

(27) I am not a member of these committees.

- MioCare and Support
- Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust- Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- Pennine Care NHS Trust – Joint Mental Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Substitute)

(54) Cllr Shah did make formal complaints about Cllr Diane Williamson to both the Liberal Democrat National Party and to Oldham Councils Standards Committee. Cllr Williamson was cleared by the National Party and Oldham Council's monitoring Officer who both decided no case to answer.

With reference to Cllrs Hince and Navesey's comments (60-86) they claim the abuse they have received was a result of the recording I would put it to them that members of the public showed their feelings because of the betrayal of the trust given to them in the local elections and them reneging on their commitments.

They categorically said in an open letter later circulated on social media (copy below).

"That any of our current serving councillors and associated candidates for the upcoming election. Will not form any coalition with the Labour party.

As you are very well aware, such a move would be contrary to our values and principles and would be a betrayal of the trust we have built up with our local communities"

Whilst I condemn any abuse, I can understand why they were challenged. The Shaw and Crompton Independents can dress it up and say they have a 'working arrangement' as much as they want. The reality is they betrayed the trust of the electorate who voted for them.

Although as you can appreciate our current focus is on May 2nd. I can give assurances on behalf of The Independent Group. That any of our current serving councillors and associated candidates for the upcoming election. Will not form any coalition with the Labour Party.

As you are very well aware, such a move would be contrary to our values and principles and would be a betrayal of the trust we have built up with our local communities.

Regards

Marc Hince MBA MCM
Leader of The Independent Group OMBC

In conclusion

I am grateful for the outcome of no breach of the Councillors Code of Conduct for the recording but deny that I have not co-operated with the investigation and request that you remove from your conclusion a breach for non-co-operation.

Oldham Council

Weightmans reference: SIG/433873/97

Report of an investigation into allegations concerning the conduct of
Councillors Louie Hamblett, Mark Kenyon, David Murphy and Howard
Sykes

SG 14

**Response from Councillor Howard Sykes to draft report ref:
SIG/433873/97 by Simon Goacher**

**Report of an investigation into allegations concerning the conduct of
councillors Louie Hamblett, Mark Kenyon, Dave Murphy and Howard
Sykes.**

First, thank you for granting an extension to the date for me to respond due to my pre booked leave, which was appreciated.

My colleagues and I have followed the rules and made no comments on this Standards matter as advised. We have made no comments, to the traditional broadcast and print media, via social media or in meetings – that is in stark contrast to others involved in this case.

This matter has been referred to in Full Council meetings on at least three occasions by others who are either complainants or have an interest in the complaint. From what we understand, there has been no sanction against those who have commented. Labour, for example, have issued several media releases saying we are 'guilty' and calling for our resignations.

Despite this clear breach of Standards policy, we made no comment. However, we have clearly suffered a public trial in the media by those who have used the media to pursue their own campaign.

Our silence and abiding by the rules and advice has clearly damaged our reputation which, in my opinion, was the clear intent, along with the obvious implication of attempting to influence the investigation and outcome of the complaint.

If further evidence was required the contents of the draft report have already been leaked/shared. It is certainly not me, my colleagues, or the acting Monitoring Officer as I have asked them all and believe them.

Posts have been made about the draft report and its findings on social media from one of those who gave evidence, but who the draft report was not supplied to.

Again, clearly against advice and the basis on which the draft report was supplied. What action will the Investigating Officer or the Council be taking to identify the source of the leak?

Summary P3

It is wrong to say that I failed to comply with the Code. I did respond. That is a fact. I also clarified that and the reasons for my response during my interview. It might have not been the response the then Monitoring Officer wanted but I did respond. It is important to note that this was during the 'informal' process, before the decision to investigate was taken.

P16

Refers to guidance from the Local Government Association (LGA) and is also referenced elsewhere in the document. This is just that, advice and guidance. It is not statutory or part of the legislation. Also, if an authority, as a number are, was not a member of the LGA I assume this 'advice' would not be referred to.

Member's official details P31 & 32

25., 26., 27., I am not sure these are correct.

However, I am certain 28. is incorrect – it is missing Oldham Community Leisure, Health & Wellbeing Board, Oldham Property Partnership, Bee Committee (TfGM).

Also, I am not and never had been on: Miocare & Support, Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust – Joint Health, Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Pennine Care NHS Trust – Joint Mental Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (substitute).

I would be grateful for the report to be updated and an explanation of the source of these errors provided to me.

Background P32

29. The political balance figures are incorrect. The correct figures are:

Labour	27
Liberal Democrats	9
Conservative	8
The Oldham Group	6
Failsworth Independent Party	2
Royton Independents	2
Independent Labour	2
Shaw & Crompton Independents	2
Failsworth non-aligned	2
Making a total of	60

30. P32'

Should read: 'the two Shaw & Crompton Independent councillors.....'

34. P32

Also mentioned elsewhere and a phrase first used by the former Chief Executive of the Council. There has never been or any evidence provided of 'sophisticated spyware' yet this is repeated as though it were an established fact several times. The report should be amended to deal with proven fact, not conjecture. Additionally, I have personally reviewed the CCTV and have seen see no evidence to support this allegation which is clearly unfounded.

26. P34

Councillor Mark Kenyon did apologise, correctly in my opinion, to the then Monitoring Officer and asked for that apology to be shared as appropriate.

For reasons unknown to us, the apology was not forwarded. Had we been advised that Officers would not or had not forwarded the apology, we would have sought the Monitoring Officer's agreement that Councillor Kenyon sent the apology immediately to those concerned. This needs to be referenced very clearly in the report so that it is fair, balanced and accurate.

In another Standards case I am aware of; Monitoring Officers have given contradictory advice or been critical of people who have sent apologies directly. I am confident Councillor Kenyon's action was based on advice.

51. P39

The two different issues in this paragraph should be separated. Councillor Shah's views on the Liberal Democrats is one issue. Things in her personal life that involved the police are a totally different issue.

53. P40

This shows that the failure of the Officer to forward or deal with the sincere apology of Councillor Kenyon caused further avoidable and unnecessary distress to Councillor Shah. I suggest that this indicates the Council's standards processes need to be urgently reviewed and updated.

54. P40

Councillor Williamson was part of the original complaint so this paragraph is incorrect. She is clearly listed on the standards complaint form.

58. P40

This is also not true. From memory the national Liberal Democrats followed its own procedures and determined the matter in October 2024. The Liberal Democrats processes are not a matter for a Council Standards complaint.

67. P41

I did witness what I think this refers to and it was not abuse. CCTV footage will clearly show it was just a forthright legitimate question.

75. P43

Abuse of any councillor is not condoned or ever encouraged. I too have been subject to a fair share of it over recent years. Mindful of the concerns identified by Councillor Hince, he may wish to consider asking for his home address to be redacted from his Register of Interests as shown and published on the Council website. (Extract below from the Oldham Council's web site). Clearly, Councillor Hince's home address has and continues to be freely available, published by the Council.

5. Land, Licences and Corporate Tenancies

5.1 Land

You should detail any beneficial interest in land with the Borough (excluding any easement, or right in or over land which does not carry the right to occupy or receive income).

16 Whittle Drive
Shaw
OL2 8TJ

76. P43

This is not true. Councillor Kenyon did apologise. The apology was not forwarded or shared by the then Monitoring Officer.

125. P52

Supports the comments made 54. P40.

141. P55

Supports 54. P60.

147. P56

I have viewed the CCTV coverage about this matter and can see nothing to support the statement made in (a).

157. P58

The last sentence of this paragraph is pure opinion and should not be in the report.

161. P58

LGA advice again and aware of what it says as I helped write some of it. However, the services of the former Chief Executive were not 'equally offered' to other groups as this advice says. I asked for just one specific thing on two occasions – and have a witness who can confirm that it was not provided.

While meetings did take place they were 'box ticking exercises' and far from the constructive and facilitating meetings they should be and I have experience in the past with other Chief Executives. This is in stark contrast to what Councillor Kenyon clearly overheard.

167. P60

'Disappointing' is opinion and should not be in the report and at 168. P60 then details the actions I did take. Also 167. implies a 'higher bar' for myself which is not reflected in the

Code. The report acknowledges that I had no knowledge that Councillor Kenyon was going to publish the recording until after it happened. How could I have advised him not to do something when I had no idea, he was going to do it?

Councillor Kenyon was suspended from the Liberal Democrat Group while the investigations took place. He also reported himself to the standards process at the Council, on my advice, and was reported by the Group to the Liberal Democrats for investigation. He also sent an apology to the Council and the people involved (which the Council lost). I maintain I took every available option for action.

169. P61

The statement of 'no satisfactory explanation' is, once more, an opinion. An answer was given, and the justification for it, this paragraph implies otherwise. I also highlight that this was, as you very clearly state, at the 'initial assessment stage' and no decision to investigate had been taken at that point.

171. P61

Councillors subject to a Standards complaint may, if they wish, seek advice and it has been the case throughout this process that we were advised to get and take advice. Bearing in mind the nature of and language used in the complaints and the subsequent leaks and commentary to the media, we did seek advice.

It is therefore quite understandable that there is some commonality in our responses.

'Highly probable' and 'in fact almost certain' are again your subjective opinions and they should have no place in the report. The fact you have never come across requests for personal meetings simply reflects that you have not been asked previously in other matters you have been engaged upon and not that it is wrong for a councillor subject of a complaint to ask to meet face-to-face.

174. P62

To make reference to these costs and not other costs or the total cost of the report in effect is to cast a 'bad light' on Councillor Kenyon who is accused of a very serious matter and was properly within his rights to ask for a face-to-face interview.

The Council has clearly spent thousands of pounds on this matter and failed to circulate a full and sincere apology made many months ago. If costs are to be included, then include them all or none.

It is, I understand, a process of a Standards complaint to secure, if possible, an early resolution. Had Councillor Kenyon's apology been shared or forwarded, or had he been advised by the Monitoring Officer to send it directly, then it is possible that these matters could have been concluded much more swiftly and at less cost to the public purse.

**Councillor Howard Sykes MBE
17 June 2025**