

**DORSET COUNCIL
DECISION NOTICE**

Complaint Reference: 057/20
Subject Member: Cllr Giovanna Lewis
Date of Hearing: 1 December 2021
Audit and Governance (Hearing) Sub-Committee

1. Summary of the Complaint

The Complainant alleged that Cllr Lewis breached the Portland Town Council Code of Conduct by acting in a disrespectful and reckless way towards the Complainant.

2. The Conduct of the Hearing

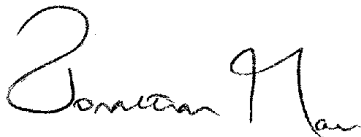
The conduct of the hearing is as detailed in the Audit and Governance (Hearing) Sub-Committee minutes, a copy of which are appended to (and forms part of) this Decision Notice.

3. The Hearing Sub-Committee's Decisions

3.1 The Hearing Sub-Committee's decisions are detailed in the appended minutes. However, the Hearing Sub-Committee's key conclusions are also set out below.

3.2 Members of the Sub-committee having reviewed the papers provided and having taken account of the view of the Independent Person, reached a decision to agree with the recommendation of the Investigating Officer and find that there had not been a breach of the Code, as there was insufficient evidence to show that the Councillor complained of was carrying out Council business or representing the Council at the time of the alleged behaviour. As a result, the Sub-Committee agreed that the Code of Conduct did not apply at the time of the alleged behaviour and so there was no breach.

3.3 The committee expressed concern that neither the Complainant nor the Councillor fully engaged with the investigation of the complaint and neither attended the hearing.



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Jonathan Mair
Monitoring Officer

Right of Appeal: There is no right of appeal against the decision of the Audit and Governance (Hearing) Sub-Committee.