



Subject:	N I Local Government Commissioner for Standards – Annual Report 2017/2018
Date:	25 th January 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal & Civic Services
Contact Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal & Civic Services

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To make Members aware of the Local Government Commissioner for Standards' Annual report 2017/2018 which has been published this month.
2.0	Decision(s) required and recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">Note the report.
3.0	Main report
3.1	The Commissioner has issued her annual report for 2017/18. The report is a synopsis of the work undertaken with regard to the Code of Conduct for that year. In terms of promoting the Code the Commissioner refers to the guidance published, guidance given in the use of social media and information sessions which her staff have hosted. A limited number of case summaries are contained within the report of the 32 complaints that were closed out in that

	<p>year. Two of these deal with the relationship between Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights and comments made by Councillors which were the subject of complaint. The other two case summaries deal with lobbying in relation to planning applications and a breach of the respect principle arising out of criticism by a Councillor of a Council official.</p>
3.2	<p>The report itself is not particularly illuminating in terms of declarations of interest. By far the greater number of complaints related to behaviour. It is however clear that the trend towards complaints in relation to declarations is on the rise with six in 2016/17 and nine 2017/18. In 2017/18 Belfast had the greatest number of complaints of any of the councils (20).</p>
	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.3	<p>None associated with this report</p>
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.4	<p>None associated with this report</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Document Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - NI Local Government Commissioner for Standards Annual Report 2017/2018</p>