

Private and Confidential

Mr John Wash
Legal & Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

5 March 2019

Dear Mr Walsh,

**Sanctions – Local Government Commissioner for Standards
Local Government Act (NI) 2014 ('The 2014 Act')**

I refer to your letter dated 30 January 2019 to which I am responding on the Commissioner's behalf in my capacity as her Legal Officer.

In this correspondence you have advanced Belfast City Council's SP&R Committee's view that the Commissioner should decide what penalties would apply to a councillor whom she has suspended or partially suspended.

The Commissioner does not have the statutory remit to decide on the Council's policy on payment of salary, allowances or expenses in the event a suspension or partial suspension is imposed on a Councillor in breach of the Code pursuant to section 59(3)(b) of the 2014 Act. She considers that this is a matter for each Council to address.

The Commissioner's decision on the action (if any) to be taken in any case is a matter for her discretion based on the circumstances of each case.

Yours sincerely,


James Hagan
Legal Officer

LEGAL SERVICES	
REC'D	- 6 MAR 2019
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