

At a Hearing of the Standards Commission for Scotland, held in Aberdeen on 12 January 2016, the Hearing Panel concluded that Councillor Willie Young had breached the Councillors' Code of Conduct and imposed a sanction of censure.

The sanction was imposed as a result of an inadvertent disclosure of confidential information by Councillor Young in breach of the provisions relating to confidentiality in the Councillors' Code.

In reaching their decision, the Hearing Panel:

1. Recognised that Councillor Young reported himself to the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life when he realised he had sent the email containing the confidential information to a member of the public instead of a fellow Councillor.
2. Noted Councillor Young's sincere apology and immediate admission of his error.
3. Accepted that this had been entirely inadvertent and had not resulted in any advantage to Councillor Young; however, even an inadvertent disclosure of confidential information constitutes a breach.
4. Recognised Councillor Young's significant contribution to public life.

The Convener, Mrs Julie Ward, in delivering the Hearing Panel's decision said:
"The Panel would remind all Councillors of the importance of due care and consideration when handling information that is of a confidential nature.

12 January 2016

Note for editors:

It should be noted that complaints in terms of the Councillors' Code are made to the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland (CESPLS). It is for the CESPLS to investigate and determine if any matter should be referred to the Standards Commission for Scotland as alleged breach of the Councillors' Code. It is for the Standards Commission for Scotland to determine if there has been a breach and if so proven, to issue an appropriate sanction.

The Hearing Panel concluded that the Respondent had breached paragraph 3.14 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.