

At a Hearing of the Standards Commission for Scotland, held in Clackmannan on 16 and 17 February 2016, and in Alloa on 7 March, 14 and 15 April 2016, the Hearing Panel suspended Councillor Archie Drummond for a period of six months from all council and committee meetings of Clackmannanshire Council.

Councillor Drummond had breached the Councillors' Code of Conduct. The sanction was imposed as a result of a failure by Councillor Drummond to treat officers with respect and a failure to comply with the provision of the Code that prohibits elected members from engaging in direct operational management of the Council's services.

In reaching its decision, the Hearing Panel:

1. Heard that Councillor Drummond had become involved in a social care case on behalf of a constituent during which time he had inappropriately sought to influence operational decision-making. In doing so, he lost sight of his overall responsibility to the Council to allow its officers to perform their statutory functions.
2. Found that Councillor Drummond had been discourteous and disrespectful in certain correspondence with Council officers.

Ian Gordon, the Chair of the Hearing Panel, said:

"The Panel reminds every councillor about the importance of mutual trust and respect in their relations with Council officers, and having a clear understanding of their respective roles to enable a Council to effectively function."

15 April 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 paragraphs 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5, relating to Relationships with Council Employees, as well as paragraph 2 of Annex C, which deals with the protocol for relations between councillors and employees in Scottish councils.