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|  | **PRESS RELEASE** |

At a Hearing of the Standards Commission for Scotland, held in Dundee on 13 and 14 June 2016, Councillor Ken Guild of Dundee City Council was censured for failing to observe confidentiality.

The decision to censure was imposed as a result of Councillor Guild disclosing the fact that the holder of a post of Principal Teacher of a Young Mothers’ Unit, which was being considered for deletion, had been signed off work for a period of one month.

In reaching its decision, the Hearing Panel:

1. That Councillor Guild had been provided with the information when visiting the Unit on 5 February 2015. Whilst he was not explicitly advised this was confidential information, he should nonetheless have been aware it was personal information about a council employee and was, therefore, confidential. The information should not have been disclosed in the manner in which it was.
2. Found the Respondent had breached the Councillors’ Code of Conduct, which obliges councillors to observe and comply with requirements to keep certain information confidential.

The Panel Chair, Mrs Lindsey Gallanders, in delivering the Hearing Panel’s decision said:

“The Hearing Panel took cognisance of the fact that the remark had been made in the context of a fraught public meeting and noted the contribution the Respondent has made to public life including over 22 years as a councillor. However, Councillors must comply with the Code and must take care when dealing with information of a confidential nature.”

14 June 2016

***Note for editors:***

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| *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 3.14 and 3.15 of the Councillors’ Code of Conduct.*