
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2008 No. 1085

The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008

PART 3

PROCEDURES RELATING TO ALLEGATIONS

Interpretation of Part 3

9. In this Part—

“appeals tribunal” means a tribunal appointed by the president or deputy president of the Adjudication Panel consisting of members drawn from the Adjudication Panel;

“authority” except where the context otherwise requires, means a relevant authority in England;

“matter”, in references to section 57A of the Act means a written allegation made under subsection (1) of that section;

“member”, except where the context otherwise requires, includes a co-opted member, former member or former co-opted member of an authority;

“standards committee” means the standards committee, or sub-committee of a standards committee, which exercises functions in relation to an authority under Part 3 of the Act.

Written allegations

10.—(1) Every standards committee shall publish in such manner as it considers appropriate, details of the address or addresses to which written allegations under section 57A(1) of the Act should be sent.

(2) Every standards committee shall take reasonable steps to ensure that the details published under paragraph (1) continue to be brought to the attention of the public and that any changes to those details are promptly published.

(3) Every standards committee shall publish in such manner as it considers appropriate, details of the procedures it will follow in relation to any written allegation received under section 57A(1).

(4) In complying with its obligations under this regulation, every standards committee shall take account of any relevant guidance issued by the Standards Board.

Modification of duty to give written summary to subject of allegation

11.—(1) The duty in section 57C(2) of the Act to take reasonable steps to give a written summary to the person who is the subject of an allegation does not arise at the time the standards committee receives the allegation, if the standards committee determines that to do so would be contrary to the public interest or would prejudice any person’s ability to investigate the allegation.

(2) In reaching a determination whether it is contrary to the public interest or would prejudice any person’s ability to investigate the allegation, the standards committee must take account of any guidance issued by the Standards Board and may take account of any advice received from the monitoring officer or any ethical standards officer concerned.

(3) Where the duty in section 57C(2) of the Act does not arise at the time the standards committee receives an allegation, by virtue of paragraph (1), the standards committee must take reasonable steps to give a written summary of the allegation to the person who is the subject of that allegation—

- (a) when the monitoring officer or ethical standards officer has advised the standards committee that it would no longer be contrary to the public interest or prejudicial to any investigation; and in any event
 - (b) before any consideration of any report or recommendation from a monitoring officer or ethical standards officer relating to that allegation.
- (4) Nothing in this regulation prevents—
- (a) a monitoring officer from notifying the subject of an allegation that an allegation has been made; or
 - (b) the standards committee from giving the subject of an allegation some details of the allegation if the standards committee is of the opinion that disclosure of those details would not be contrary to the public interest and would not prejudice any investigation.

Application of section 63 of the Local Government Act 2000 with modification

12.—(1) Subsection (1) of section 63 of the Act (restrictions on disclosure of information) shall apply in respect of information obtained by monitoring officers in the performance of any of their functions under Part 3 of the Act and regulations made under that Part, as they apply in respect of information obtained by ethical standards officers under sections 61 and 62 of the Act, subject to the modification set out below.

- (2) The modification is the insertion, after paragraph (a), of the following paragraph—
- “(aa) the disclosure is made for any one or more of the following purposes—
- (i) enabling a standards committee or sub-committee of a standards committee established under this Part to perform any of its functions under this Part, or under regulations made under this Part, in connection with the investigation and consideration of an alleged breach of an authority’s code of conduct; or
 - (ii) enabling a tribunal drawn from members of the Adjudication Panel to consider any appeal from a finding of a standards committee or sub-committee of a standards committee established under this Part in connection with an alleged breach of an authority’s code of conduct.”.

Referral of matters to monitoring officer for steps other than an investigation

- 13.**—(1) This regulation applies—
- (a) where a standards committee refers a matter to a monitoring officer under section 57A(2) (a) or 57A(3) of the Act; or
 - (b) an ethical standards officer refers a matter under section 60(2) or 60(3) of the Act,
- with a direction to take steps other than carrying out an investigation.
- (2) A standards committee may only make a referral under paragraph (1) after consultation with the monitoring officer.
- (3) The steps referred to in paragraph (1) are—
- (a) arranging for the member who is the subject of an allegation to attend a training course;
 - (b) arranging for that member and the complainant to engage in a process of conciliation;
 - (c) such other steps (not including an investigation), as appear appropriate to the standards committee, or as the case may be, the ethical standards officer.

(4) Where a matter is referred to a monitoring officer under this regulation, the monitoring officer—

- (a) shall deal with the matter in accordance with the direction; and
- (b) shall give notice that the matter has been so referred to—
 - (i) the member who is the subject of the allegation,
 - (ii) any person who made the allegation which gave rise to the referral,
 - (iii) the standards committee of any other authority concerned; and
 - (iv) any parish council concerned;
- (c) within the period of three months beginning on the day on which the direction was received, or as soon as is reasonably practicable thereafter, submit a written report giving details of the action taken or proposed, to comply with the direction—
 - (i) where the matter was referred to the monitoring officer under section 57A of the Act, to the standards committee; or
 - (ii) where the matter was referred to the monitoring officer under section 60 of the Act, to the ethical standards officer concerned.

(5) If the standards committee is not satisfied with the action specified in the report received under paragraph (4)(c)(i), it shall give a further direction to the monitoring officer.

(6) If the standards committee is satisfied with the action specified in the report received under paragraph (4)(c)(i), it shall give written notice to that effect to—

- (a) the member who is the subject of the report;
- (b) any person who made an allegation that gave rise to the referral;
- (c) the standards committee of any other authority concerned; and
- (d) any parish council concerned.

(7) If the ethical standards officer concerned is satisfied with the action specified in the report received under paragraph (4)(c)(ii), that officer shall give written notice to that effect to—

- (a) the member who is the subject of the report;
- (b) any person who made an allegation that gave rise to the referral;
- (c) the standards committee of any authority concerned; and
- (d) any parish council concerned.

(8) If the ethical standards officer concerned is not satisfied with the action specified in the report received under paragraph (4)(c)(ii), that officer may require the monitoring officer to arrange for a statement to be published in at least one newspaper circulating in the area of any authority concerned, giving—

- (a) details of the direction given by the ethical standards officer;
- (b) the ethical standards officer's reasons for being dissatisfied; and
- (c) the monitoring officer's response to the ethical standards officer's reasons for being dissatisfied.

Referral of matters to a monitoring officer for investigation

14.—(1) This regulation applies where a matter is referred to a monitoring officer under section 57A(2)(a), 57A(3), 60(2) or (3) of the Act otherwise than in accordance with regulation 13(1).

(2) The monitoring officer shall, unless otherwise directed by the ethical standards officer or standards committee—

- (a) inform
 - (i) the member who is the subject of the allegation;
 - (ii) any person who made the allegation which gave rise to the referral;
 - (iii) the standards committee of any other authority concerned; and
 - (iv) any parish council concerned,that the matter has been referred for investigation;
 - (b) subject to paragraph (5), conduct an investigation into the matters referred;
 - (c) give any member who is the subject of the investigation the opportunity to comment on the allegation made;
- (3) The monitoring officer shall, in conducting an investigation, have regard to any relevant guidance issued, and shall comply with any relevant direction given, by the Standards Board.
- (4) The monitoring officer may, in conducting an investigation—
- (a) make such inquiries of any person as the monitoring officer thinks necessary or expedient for the purpose of conducting that investigation;
 - (b) require any person to give such information or explanation as the monitoring officer thinks necessary or expedient for the purpose of conducting that investigation;
 - (c) require any of the authorities concerned to provide such advice and assistance as may reasonably be needed to assist in the investigation;
 - (d) require any of the authorities concerned, other than a parish council, to meet the reasonable cost of any advice and assistance provided in accordance with sub-paragraph (c);
 - (e) if any of the authorities concerned is a parish council, require the responsible authority to meet any reasonable costs incurred by that parish council in accordance with sub-paragraph (d); and
 - (f) require any of the authorities concerned to afford reasonable access to such documents in the possession of that authority as appear to the monitoring officer to be necessary for the purpose of conducting the investigation.
- (5) In the case of an investigation pursuant to a reference under section 60(2) or (3) of the Act, the monitoring officer of an authority may, at any stage prior to the completion of the investigation, by a request in writing to the ethical standards officer concerned, ask that the matter be referred back to that ethical standards officer for investigation; and any such request must set out the reasons for making it.
- (6) The ethical standards officer must respond to a request under paragraph (5) within 21 days of its receipt and may—
- (a) direct that the matter be so referred for investigation, in which case the investigation by the monitoring officer concerned shall cease; or
 - (b) direct the monitoring officer concerned to continue the investigation in accordance with these Regulations.
- (7) Where a direction is given under paragraph (6)(b), the monitoring officer may not make a further request under paragraph (5) in respect of the same matter.
- (8) On completion of an investigation under this regulation, the monitoring officer shall—
- (a) make a finding—
 - (i) that there has been a failure to comply with the code of conduct of the authority concerned or, as the case may be, of any other authority concerned (“a finding of failure”); or

- (ii) that there has not been a failure to comply with the code of conduct of the authority concerned or, as the case may be, of any other authority concerned (“a finding of no failure”);
- (b) prepare a written report of the investigation which contains a statement as to the finding;
- (c) send a copy of that report to the member who was the subject of the investigation;
- (d) refer the report to—
 - (i) the standards committee of the authority; and
 - (ii) the standards committee of any other authority, other than a parish council, of which the person who was the subject of the investigation is a member, if that other authority so requests.

Matters referred to monitoring officer after investigation

15. Where a matter is referred to a monitoring officer under section 64(2) or (4) of the Act the monitoring officer shall—

- (a) send a copy of any report received from the ethical standards officer who has referred the matter, to any member who is the subject of such a report; and, after that member has received the report,
- (b) refer the report to the standards committee of the authority for consideration under regulation 17.

References back from monitoring officer

16.—(1) Where a matter is referred to a monitoring officer under section 57A(2)(a) of the Act for investigation, the monitoring officer may, subject to paragraph (4), refer that matter back to the standards committee concerned if—

- (a) as a result of new evidence or information, the monitoring officer is of the opinion that the matter—
 - (i) is materially more serious; or
 - (ii) materially less seriousthan may have seemed apparent to the standards committee when it made its decision under section 57A(2) of the Act, and
 - (iii) that the standards committee would have made a different decision had it been aware of that new evidence or information; or
- (b) the person who is the subject of the allegation—
 - (i) has died; or
 - (ii) is seriously ill; or
 - (iii) has resigned from the authority concerned, andthe monitoring officer is of the opinion that in the circumstances it is no longer appropriate to continue with an investigation.

(2) If a matter is referred back to a standards committee under this regulation, the standards committee shall make a decision under section 57A(2) of the Act as if the matter had been made to it under section 57A(1) of the Act.

(3) In forming an opinion for the purposes of paragraph (1)(a), a monitoring officer may take account of—

- (a) the failure of any person to co-operate with an investigation; or

- (b) an allegation that the member concerned has engaged in a further breach of the code of conduct of a relevant authority; or
 - (c) an allegation that another member has engaged in a related breach of the code of conduct of a relevant authority.
- (4) Where a standards committee considers a matter referred back to it under this regulation, it may direct that the matter should not be referred back a further time.

Consideration of reports by standards committee

17.—(1) Where a monitoring officer refers a report to the standards committee of any authority under regulation 14 or 15, that standards committee shall convene to consider that report and make one of the following findings—

- (a) that it accepts the monitoring officer’s finding of no failure (“a finding of acceptance”); or
 - (b) that the matter should be considered at a hearing of the standards committee conducted under regulation 18; or
 - (c) that the matter should be referred to the Adjudication Panel for determination.
- (2) A standards committee may only make a finding under sub-paragraph (1)(c) if—
- (a) it has determined that the action it could take against the member would be insufficient were a finding of failure to be made; and
 - (b) the president or deputy president of the Adjudication Panel has agreed to accept the referral.
- (3) As soon as reasonably practicable after making a finding of acceptance, the standards committee shall—
- (a) give written notice of that finding to—
 - (i) the member who is the subject of the finding of no failure;
 - (ii) any ethical standards officer concerned;
 - (iii) the standards committee of any other authority concerned;
 - (iv) any parish council concerned; and
 - (v) the person who made the allegation that gave rise to the investigation; and
 - (b) subject to paragraph (4), arrange for a notice to be published stating that the standards committee have found that there has been no failure on the part of the member concerned to comply with the code of conduct of the authority concerned or, as the case may be, with the code of conduct of any other authority concerned.
- (4) The notices referred to in paragraph (3)(b) shall not be published if the member concerned so requests.
- (5) Unless paragraph (4) applies, the notice referred to in paragraph (3)(b) shall be published—
- (a) in at least one newspaper circulating in the area of any authority concerned; and
 - (b) if considered appropriate by the standards committee, on the web page of any authority concerned; and
 - (c) if considered appropriate by the standards committee, in any other publication.
- (6) A tribunal may be appointed from the members of the Adjudication Panel to deal with a reference under sub-paragraph (1)(c), as if the reference had been made under section 64(3)(b) of the Act and shall have the same powers to take action as in such a case.

(7) Where a tribunal appointed under paragraph (6) decides that a member has failed to comply with the code of conduct of an authority, the member may appeal to the High Court against that decision, or any other decision made by that tribunal.

Hearings by standards committee

18.—(1) Where a standards committee holds a hearing pursuant to a finding under regulation 17(1)(b), it shall ensure that—

- (a) the hearing is conducted having regard to any relevant guidance issued by the Standards Board;
- (b) subject to sub-paragraph (c), the hearing is held within the period of 3 months beginning—
 - (i) in the case of a report referred by an ethical standards officer, on the date on which the monitoring officer received the report; or
 - (ii) in the case of a report prepared by the monitoring officer, on the date on which the report is completed;
- (c) the hearing is not held until at least fourteen days after the date on which the monitoring officer sent the report to the member who is the subject of the allegation, unless the member concerned agrees to the hearing being held earlier;
- (d) if the hearing is not held within the period specified in sub-paragraph (b), it is held as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter;
- (e) any member who is the subject of a report being considered by the standards committee is given the opportunity to present evidence and make representations at the hearing—
 - (i) either orally or, if the member chooses, in writing; and
 - (ii) either personally, or by counsel or by a solicitor or, with the committee's consent, by any other representative.

(2) A standards committee may, subject to paragraph (1)(a) and (e), conduct a hearing using such procedures as it considers appropriate in the circumstances.

(3) A standards committee may arrange for the attendance at a hearing of such witnesses as it considers appropriate.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), a member who is the subject of a hearing may arrange for the attendance at that hearing of such witnesses as that person wishes.

(5) A standards committee may place a limit on the number of witnesses a member who is the subject of a hearing may call if it considers that the number that the member proposes to call is unreasonable.

(6) A member who is the subject of a hearing may be represented by counsel, by a solicitor or, with the consent of the standards committee, by any other representative.

(7) If a member who is the subject of a report to the standards committee fails to attend a hearing of which that member has been given notice, the standards committee may—

- (a) unless it is satisfied that there is sufficient reason for such failure, consider the allegation and make a determination in the absence of that member; or
- (b) adjourn the hearing to another date.

(8) A standards committee may, at any stage prior to the conclusion of the hearing, adjourn the hearing and require the monitoring officer to seek further information or undertake further investigation on any point specified by it; but the standards committee shall not adjourn the hearing on more than one occasion under this paragraph.

(9) Paragraphs (10) to (13) apply only to cases where the report under consideration has been referred to a monitoring officer under section 64(2) or (4) of the Act.

(10) A standards committee may at any stage prior to the conclusion of the hearing, adjourn the hearing and make a written request to the ethical standards officer concerned that the matter be referred back to the ethical standards officer for further investigation; and any such request must set out the committee's reasons for making it.

(11) Where a matter is referred to an ethical standards officer under paragraph (10), the ethical standards officer must respond to the request within 21 days of its receipt and may—

- (a) agree to accept the referral for further investigation and direct that the standards committee shall cease its consideration of the matter; or
- (b) direct the standards committee to continue to deal with the matter in accordance with these Regulations, in which case the standards committee shall do so and shall not make any further request under paragraph (10) in respect of the matter.

(12) Where the ethical standards officer gives a direction under paragraph (11)(b), the standards committee shall convene to continue its consideration of the matter within three months of the receipt of the ethical standards officer's direction or as soon as practicable thereafter.

(13) Paragraph (1)(a), (c) and (e) and paragraphs (2) to (8) of this regulation shall apply to a hearing convened under paragraph (12) as they apply to a hearing convened under paragraph (1).

Findings of standards committees

19.—(1) Following a hearing held under regulation 18, a standards committee shall make one of the following findings—

- (a) that the member who was the subject of the hearing had not failed to comply with the code of conduct of any authority concerned;
- (b) that the member who was the subject of the hearing had failed to comply with the code of conduct of an authority concerned but that no action needs to be taken in respect of the matters which were considered at the hearing; or
- (c) that the member who was the subject of the hearing had failed to comply with the code of conduct of an authority concerned and that a sanction under paragraph (2) or (3) should be imposed.

(2) If a standards committee makes a finding under paragraph (1)(c) in respect of a person who is no longer a member of any authority in respect of which it exercises any function under Part 3 of the Act, it shall censure that person.

(3) If a standards committee makes a finding under paragraph (1)(c) in respect of a person who is a member of an authority in respect of which it exercises any functions under Part 3 of the Act, it shall impose any one of, or any combination of, the following sanctions—

- (a) censure of that member;
- (b) restriction for a period not exceeding six months of that member's access to the premises of the authority or that member's use of the resources of the authority, provided that those restrictions—
 - (i) are reasonable and proportionate to the nature of the breach; and
 - (ii) do not unduly restrict the person's ability to perform the functions of a member;
- (c) partial suspension⁽¹⁾ of that member for a period not exceeding six months;
- (d) suspension of that member for a period not exceeding six months;
- (e) that the member submits a written apology in a form specified by the standards committee;
- (f) that the member undertakes such training as the standards committee specifies;

(1) See section 83(7) of the Local Government Act 2000 (c. 22) for a definition of partial suspension.

- (g) that the member participate in such conciliation as the standards committee specifies;
- (h) partial suspension of the member for a period not exceeding six months or until such time as the member submits a written apology in a form specified by the standards committee;
- (i) partial suspension of the member for a period not exceeding six months or until such time as the member has undertaken such training or has participated in such conciliation as the standards committee specifies;
- (j) suspension of the member for a period not exceeding six months or until such time as the member has submitted a written apology in a form specified by the standards committee;
- (k) suspension of the member for a period not exceeding six months or until such time as that member has undertaken such training or has participated in such conciliation as the standards committee specifies.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5) and regulation 21 any sanction imposed under this regulation shall commence immediately following its imposition by the standards committee.

(5) A standards committee may direct that the sanction imposed under any of sub-paragraphs (b) to (k) of paragraph (3) or, where a combination of such sanctions is imposed, such one or more of them as the committee specifies, shall commence on such date, within a period of six months after the imposition of that sanction, as the committee specifies.

Notification of findings of standards committees

20.—(1) A standards committee shall, as soon as reasonably practicable after making a finding under regulation 19—

- (a) give written notice of the finding and the reasons for it to—
 - (i) the member who is the subject of the finding;
 - (ii) the Standards Board;
 - (iii) the standards committee of any other authority concerned;
 - (iv) any parish councils concerned; and
 - (v) any person who made an allegation that gave rise to the investigation; and
- (b) subject to sub-paragraph (2)(b), arrange for a summary of the notice under paragraph (1) (a) to be published—
 - (i) in at least one newspaper circulating in the area of every authority concerned; and
 - (ii) if considered appropriate by the standards committee, on the web page of any authority concerned; and
 - (iii) if considered appropriate by the standards committee, in any other publication.

(2) Where the standards committee makes a finding under regulation 19(1)(a),

- (a) the notice under paragraph (1)(a) of this regulation shall state that the standards committee has found that the member who was the subject of the hearing had not failed to comply with code of conduct of any authority concerned and shall give its reasons for that finding; and
- (b) paragraph (1)(b) shall not apply if the member concerned so requests.

(3) Where the standards committee makes a finding under regulation 19(1)(b), the notice under paragraph (1)(a) of this regulation shall—

- (a) state that the standards committee found that the member who was the subject of the hearing had failed to comply with the code of conduct of an authority concerned, but that no action needs to be taken in respect of that failure;
- (b) specify the details of the failure;

- (c) give the reasons for the standards committee's finding; and
 - (d) state that the member concerned may apply under regulation 21 of these Regulations for permission to appeal against the finding.
- (4) Where the standards committee makes a finding under regulation 19(1)(c), the notice under paragraph (1)(a) of this regulation shall—
- (a) state that the standards committee found that the member who was the subject of the hearing had failed to comply with the code of conduct of an authority concerned;
 - (b) specify the details of the failure;
 - (c) give reasons for the standards committee's finding;
 - (d) specify the sanction imposed in accordance with regulation 19(2) or (3); and
 - (e) state that the member concerned may apply under regulation 21 for permission to appeal against the finding or sanction imposed.

Notices of appeals

21.—(1) Where a standards committee makes a finding under regulation 19(1)(b) or (c), the member who is the subject of that finding may, by way of notice in writing given to the president of the Adjudication Panel—

- (a) seek permission to appeal; and, if appropriate,
- (b) apply for the suspension of any sanction imposed under regulation 19(3)(b) to (k) until such time as any appeal is determined.

(2) The notice specified in paragraph (1) must be received by the president of the Adjudication Panel within 21 days of the member's receipt of the notice under regulation 20(1)(a) and must specify—

- (a) the finding against which the member seeks permission to appeal;
- (b) in the case of a finding under regulation 19(1)(c) whether the appeal is against the finding that the member has failed to comply with a code of conduct, or if it is against the sanction which has been imposed, or both;
- (c) the grounds of the appeal;
- (d) whether any application for suspension of any sanction is made; and
- (e) whether or not the member consents to the appeal being conducted by way of written representations.

(3) An application for permission to appeal or to suspend a sanction, shall be decided by the president of the Adjudication Panel or, in the absence of the president, by the deputy president, on consideration of the application and, unless the president or the deputy president (as the case may be) considers that special circumstances render a hearing desirable, in the absence of the parties.

(4) In deciding whether to give permission to appeal, the president, or deputy president (as the case may be), shall have regard to whether, in their opinion, there is a reasonable prospect of the appeal being successful (either in whole or in part).

(5) Permission to appeal or to suspend a sanction may be given in relation to the whole or any specified part of the finding or sanction.

(6) The president, or the deputy president (as the case may be), shall, within 21 days of receipt of a notice given in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2), send notice of their decision to—

- (a) the member who gave the notice under paragraph (1);
- (b) the Standards Board;
- (c) the standards committee of any authority concerned;

- (d) any parish councils concerned; and
- (e) any person who made an allegation that gave rise to the investigation.

(7) If permission to appeal or for suspension of a sanction is refused, whether as to the whole or in part, the notice given under paragraph (6) shall give the reasons for the decision.

Conduct of appeals

22.—(1) Where permission to appeal has been given, the president or deputy president (as the case may be) shall refer the matter to an appeals tribunal which shall conduct the appeal in accordance with these Regulations.

(2) Where the member does not consent to the appeal being conducted by written representations, an appeals tribunal shall conduct an appeal hearing.

(3) The appeals tribunal shall give the member at least 21 days notice in writing of the date of the hearing.

(4) Where the member consents to an appeal being conducted by way of written representations, the appeals tribunal may either—

- (a) conduct an appeal hearing; or
- (b) conduct the appeal by way of written representations, as it thinks fit.

(5) The member may appear at an appeal hearing in person or may be represented by counsel, a solicitor or, subject to the consent of the appeals tribunal, any other representative.

(6) The standards committee may be represented at an appeals hearing by any member of that committee, the monitoring officer of the authority concerned, by counsel, a solicitor or, subject to the consent of the appeals tribunal, any other representative.

Composition and procedures of appeal tribunals

23.—(1) An appeals tribunal shall consist of not less than three members appointed by the president of the Adjudication Panel (or, in the absence of the president, by the deputy president), from the members of the Adjudication Panel.

(2) The president or the deputy president of the Adjudication Panel may be a member of an appeals tribunal.

(3) A member of the Adjudication Panel may not at any time be a member of an appeals tribunal drawn from the Panel which is to conduct an appeal on a matter relating to a member of an authority if, within the period of five years ending with that time, the member of the Adjudication Panel has been a member or an officer of any of the authorities concerned or a member of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee of any of the authorities concerned.

(4) A member of the Adjudication Panel who is directly or indirectly interested in any matter which is, or is likely to be the subject of an appeal conducted by an appeals tribunal—

- (a) must disclose the nature of the interest to the Panel's president or deputy president; and
- (b) may not be a member of the appeals tribunal which conducts an appeal in relation to that matter.

(5) The procedure for conducting an appeal shall be such as the appeals tribunal considers appropriate in the circumstances.

Failure of member concerned to attend appeal hearing

24.—(1) If a member concerned has been duly notified of an appeal hearing and fails to attend or be represented at that hearing, the appeals tribunal may—

- (a) unless it is satisfied that there is sufficient reason for such absence, hear and determine the appeal in that member’s absence, or
- (b) adjourn the hearing.

(2) Before deciding to determine an appeal in the absence of the member concerned, the appeals tribunal shall consider any representations in writing submitted by that member in response to the notice of the hearing and, for the purpose of this paragraph, any written reply to that notice shall be treated as a the member’s representations in writing.

Outcome of appeals

25.—(1) An appeals tribunal must uphold or reject the finding or, where permission to appeal was granted as to only part of the finding, that part of the finding, to which the appeal relates, or may allow the appeal as regards a specified part of the finding.

(2) Where an appeals tribunal rejects the finding, the decision of the standards committee (including any sanction imposed) shall cease to have effect from the date of the rejection.

(3) Where an appeals tribunal upholds the finding of a standards committee made under regulation 19(1)(b), it may confirm the decision of that committee to impose no sanction or it may impose any sanction which was available to the standards committee.

(4) Where an appeals tribunal upholds the finding, or part of a finding, of a standards committee made under regulation 19(1)(c), it may confirm any sanction imposed by that committee, or vary it by substituting any other sanction which was available to the standards committee.

(5) Subject to paragraph (6), any sanction imposed under this regulation shall take effect immediately after its imposition.

(6) An appeals tribunal may direct that any sanction imposed under this regulation shall take effect on such date, within the period of six months after its imposition, as the appeals tribunal may specify.

(7) The appeals tribunal must give written notice of its decision to—

- (a) the member who is the subject of the decision to which the notice relates;
- (b) the Standards Board;
- (c) the standards committee of any authorities concerned;
- (d) any parish council concerned; and
- (e) any person who made an allegation that gave rise to the investigation.

(8) The appeals tribunal must arrange for a summary of its decision to be published in one or more newspapers circulating in the area of any authorities concerned.