

Complaint Against Councillor Stuart Munro

Following a Councillor Code of Conduct complaint, an investigation was conducted into an allegation that Councillor Stuart Munro should have declared an interest and not taken part in a decision on a planning application considered at the meeting of the Planning Committee on 10 January 2024 (Item no. 60), and in not doing so, had brought his role or the local authority into disrepute.

The Standards Committee Hearings Panel considered the complaint on 12 January 2026 having adjourned its meeting of 15 September 2025 for further information from the investigating officer.

The Panel made the following decision.

Decision

- 1) In relation to the declaration of interests, the Panel agrees with the conclusion reached by the Investigating Officer, that Councillor Munro should have declared an interest relating to item 60 and not participated in the debate or voted on this application. This would have been in accordance with the legal advice Councillor Munro received prior to the meeting.
- 2) The Panel instructs the Monitoring Officer to arrange appropriate training for Councillor Munro on declaration of interests.
- 3) The Panel noted the investigating officer's conclusion that this is a complex area of law, and the concept of predetermination is not straightforward.

In accordance with Rule 8.9.15.3 of the Borough Council's Constitution, the Decision Notice has been published on the Council's website. A copy of the Decision Notice has been sent to the complainant, the Subject Member, and the Independent Person. Wokingham Borough Council will report the decision to the next appropriate full Council meeting.