

Decision Notice of the Standards Committee for Cornwall Council relating to a Failure to Apologise by Councillor Tudor

At the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 21 July 2020 the Committee considered a referral to it made by the Monitoring Officer for Cornwall Council.

The matter referred concerned the failure of Councillor Dulcie Tudor to apologise for a breach of the Code of Conduct as set out in the Decision Notice CCN011/19/20.

In reviewing this matter the Standards Committee considered the Report and Decision Notice, and heard oral statements made by the Head of Legal, as assessing officer for complaint CCN011/19/20, and considered written and oral statements from Councillor Dulcie Tudor. The Standards Committee had the opportunity to question both the Head of Legal and Councillor Dulcie Tudor.

After considering the matter and taking advice from the Monitoring Officer, the decision of the Standards Committee is to formally publicly censure Councillor Dulcie Tudor and request that she undertakes Code of Conduct training with an officer within 2 months.

The committee identified that Councillor Dulcie Tudor has failed on two occasions to comply with decision notices, in that she did not apologise. Councillor Dulcie Tudor has breached the following aspects of the Code of Conduct:

Para 2.1 you must treat others with respect.

Para 2.5 you must not conduct yourself in a manner which is contrary to the Council's duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members

Para 2.10 You must not do anything that could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or your authority into disrepute.

The Committee noted the personal abuse that Councillor Dulcie Tudor confirmed she has received in leading up to this complaint. However, the failure to comply with the requirement to apologise, undermines her role as a Councillor and the ethical standards regime. It is important that the Standards Committee continue to ensure and maintain high standards of conduct amongst Councillors.

The Standards Committee make a recommendation to Council that this public formal censure of Councillor Dulcie Tudor is read out at the next Council Meeting by the Chairman of the Standards Committee.

Councillor Paul Wills
Chairman of the Standards Committee
Cornwall Council