



## EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## COMPLAINT FORM : CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

### A. Your details

1. Please provide us with your name and contact details. Anonymous complaints will only be considered if there is independent evidence to substantiate the complaint.

Title:	MR.
First name:	RICHARD
Last name:	KEY
Address:	
Contact telephone:	
Email address:	
Signature:	
Date of complaint:	23/02/2018

Your address and contact details will not usually be released unless necessary or to deal with your complaint.

The following people may see this form:

- Monitoring Officer of the Council
- Standards Committee members
- Council's Independent Person(s)
- The subject member(s)
- the Parish Clerk (if applicable)

If you have serious concerns about your name and a summary, or details of your complaint being released, please complete **Section C** of this Form and also discuss your reasons or concerns with the Council's Monitoring Officer.

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Please tell us which complainant type best describes you:

- A member of the public
- An elected or co-opted Member of the Council
- An independent member of a Standards Committee
- A Member of Parliament
- A Monitoring Officer
- Other council employee, contractor or agent of the Council
- Other ( )

2. Equality Monitoring Form - please fill in the attached form.

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### B. Making your complaint

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3. Please provide us with the name of the Member(s) you believe have breached the Council's Code of Conduct:

Title	First name	Last name
CLERK	IAN	HUNT

4. Please explain in this section (or on separate sheet(s)) what the Member is alleged to have done that you believe breaches the Code of Conduct. If you are complaining about more than one Member you should clearly explain what each individual person has done, with dates / witnesses to substantiate the alleged breach.

It is also important that you provide all the evidence you wish to have taken into account. For example:

- You should be specific, wherever possible, about exactly what you are alleging the Member said or did. For instance, instead of writing that the Member insulted you, you should state what it was they said or did to insult you.
- You should provide the dates of the alleged incidents wherever possible. If you cannot provide exact dates it is important to give a general timeframe.

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- You should confirm whether there are any witnesses to the alleged conduct and provide their names and contact details if possible.
- You should provide any relevant background information or other relevant documentary evidence to support your allegation(s).

Please provide us with the details of your complaint. Continue on a separate sheet if there is not enough space on this form.

See attached sheet.

**(Continue on separate sheet(s), as necessary)**

Formal code of Conduct Complaint against Ian Hunt Much Hadham Parish Council.

I enclosed and email (app1) that I received from Cllr Hunt. I had not directly contacted Ian Hunt since before Christmas.

I have a code of conduct complaint against both Cllrs Hunt and Taylor (MHPC), when informing the members of MHPC and the clerk out of courtesy of this fact, I received this email (app1)

I find it totally unacceptable for an elected councillor to send an email of this kind to a member of the public.

It is sarcastic, threatening and contains speculative innuendo. It falls way below the high standards set out in the Code of conduct.

He is using his private email address for council business as can be seen from app 3.

I also enclose my reply (app2)

I also enclose Cllr Hunts subsequent reply (app3)

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### C. Confidentiality of complainant and the complaint details

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Only complete this next section if you are requesting that your identity is kept confidential

5. In the interests of fairness and in compliance with the rules of natural justice, we believe Members who are complained about have a right to know who has made the complaint and the substance of the allegation(s) made against him / her. We are, therefore, unlikely to withhold your personal details or the details of your complaint unless you have good reasons to believe that you have justifiable grounds, for example:
- to believe you may be victimised or harassed by the Member(s) against whom you are submitting a written complaint (or by a person associated with the same); or
  - may receive less favourable treatment from the Council because of the seniority of the Member against whom you are submitting a written complaint in terms of any existing Council service provision or any tender / contract that you may have or are about to submit to the Council.

Please note that requests for confidentiality or requests for suppression of the personal and complaint details will not automatically be granted. The Assessment Sub-Committee will consider the request alongside the substance of your complaint and the Monitoring Officer will then contact you with the decision. If your request for confidentiality is not granted, we will usually allow you the opportunity, if you so wish, of withdrawing your complaint.

However, it is important to understand that - in exceptional circumstances, where the matter complained about is very serious - we may proceed with an investigation (or other action) and may have no choice but to disclose your personal and complaint details, because of the allegation(s) made, even if you have expressly asked us not to.

Please provide us with details of why you believe we should withhold your name and/or the details of your complaint:

**(Continue on separate sheet(s), as necessary)**

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### D. Remedy sought

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7. Please indicate the remedy or remedies you are looking for or hoping to achieve by submitting this complaint.

A Full written apology, an explanation why this email was sent. A guarantee that he does not send similar email to other members of public

(Continue on separate sheet(s), as necessary)

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### E. Additional information

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8. Complaints must be submitted in writing. This includes fax and electronic submissions. Frivolous, vexatious and politically motivated tit-for-tat complaints are likely to be rejected.
9. In line with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, we can make reasonable adjustments to assist you if you have a disability that prevents you from making your complaint in writing. We can also help if English is not your first language.
10. If you need any support in completing this form, please contact the Monitoring Officer as soon as possible.

#### Monitoring Officer Contact details:

The Monitoring Officer – Simon Drinkwater  
East Herts Council  
Wallfields  
Pegs Lane  
Hertford  
SG13 8EQ

# EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Monitoring Form – Local Assessments of Complaints Standards Committee - Assessment Sub Committee

### Working towards equal opportunities

East Hertfordshire District Council is committed to a policy of equality of opportunity in both employment and service provision. We seek to ensure that no person receives less favorable treatment on the grounds of gender, race, or ethnic origins, marital status, disability, age, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, religion, trade union involvement or political belief or is disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be justifiable.

<b>White</b>	<b>Mixed</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Chinese or other ethnic group</b>
White British	White and Black	Indian	Caribbean	
White Irish	Caribbean	Pakistani	African	
Any other White	White and Black	Bangladeshi	Any other Black	
background	African	Any other Asian	background	Chinese
	Any other mixed	background		Other
	background			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

\*Categories used are those utilised by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

Do you have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on your ability that you wish to declare under the Disability Discrimination Act?

Yes  No

APP 1

**From:** Ian Hunt  
**Sent:** 07 February 2016 17:09  
**To:** Richard Key  
**Subject:** RE: COCC

Mr Key

For the avoidance of doubt and as I'm confused by the attached, is the code of conduct complaint in your name or that of mcarver?

One's credibility can be lost in a moment by this sort of behaviour. Fortunately the online Observer was able to act quickly, I am told, and took down the offending (offensive?) material (along with that of Lupanar, a well known "resident of Wellpond Green" who seems to have had plenty to say on local matters.....).

You complain below about lack of protection but who was protecting the innocent parties from the attached impersonation, for which I'm not aware any apology has been made? Someone should complain to Ms Holland or the police – both seem to be well-trodden avenues for the disaffected. Or perhaps the evidence can be left by someone on the parish noticeboards, as that seems a popular choice right now.

For the record, I have not "colluded" with anyone about editing any of the resignation speeches so I look forward to seeing your evidence showing otherwise.

Ian Hunt



App 2

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**From:** Richard Key |

**Sent:** 07 February 2016 17:18

**To:** [ianhunt](#)

**Cc:** John Ingham < >; JANET LIVERSAGE < >;

'Ian Devonshire' < >; Penny Taylor < >

Anthony Baxter < >; Morris, Blaise < >; Selina

Bannerman < >; Keogh, Michael < >; john

< >; William Compton (

<

**Subject:** Threats

Mr Hunt,

Are you threatening me?

Richard Key

App 3

**From:** Ian Hunt <[ianhunt@](mailto:ianhunt@)> on behalf of  
**Sent:** 07 February 2016 17:31  
**To:** Richard Key  
**Subject:** RE: Threats

Mr Key

I refer you to the Chairman's earlier e-mail, including:

- E-mails that are disrespectful of individuals (whether councillors or others) e.g. by casting unjustified aspersions on their integrity, will be acknowledged but may not be answered fully or at all. We have to ensure that courtesy and respect is maintained in all aspects of parish business

Therefore, in line with policy, I acknowledge your e-mail but will not be saying anything further.

Cllr Ian Hunt