

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	14 December 2020
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Standards Commission for Scotland – Written Decision – Councillor Donnelly
REPORT NUMBER	COM/20/239
CHIEF OFFICER	Fraser Bell
REPORT AUTHOR	Fraser Bell
TERMS OF REFERENCE	15

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to bring before Council the written decision made by the Standards Commission for Scotland following a hearing held on 20 November 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council:

- 2.1 Considers the content of the written decision; and
- 2.2 Notes the sanction imposed by the Standards Commission for Scotland.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Appended to this report is a copy of the written decision of the Standards Commission for Scotland following a hearing on 20 November 2020. This hearing was convened further to a complaint alleging that Councillor Alan Donnelly had contravened the Councillors' Code of Conduct in respect of his conviction in December 2019 for sexual assault.
- 3.2 Following the hearing, the Standards Commission for Scotland suspended Councillor Donnelly from all Council meetings for a period of one year after determining that he had contravened paragraphs 3.2 and 3.6 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.
- 3.3 The Council is legally required to consider the findings of the Standards Commission for Scotland. The findings must be considered by a meeting of full Council.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Section 18(2) of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 requires that the Council consider the findings of the Standards Commission for Scotland whenever the Commission makes a finding about a Member. The Council must consider the findings within 3 months of receiving them unless the Commission sets a longer period in writing.
- 5.2 Section 18(3) of that Act requires that the duty to consider the findings must be discharged by Full Council and not by a committee, sub-committee, or officer.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk	None	N/A	N/A
Compliance	Failure to timeously consider the findings would be a breach of statutory duty.	L	This report ensures Council meets its obligations.
Operational	None	N/A	N/A
Financial	None	N/A	N/A
Reputational	Further breaches of the Code could happen.	L	Training programme for Members helps ensure that all Members remain aware of their responsibilities.
Environment / Climate	None.	N/A	N/A

13. OUTCOMES

- 13.1 The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan.

14. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	Not Required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

16. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Decision of Standards Commission for Scotland

17. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Fraser Bell
Title	Chief Officer - Governance
Email Address	frbell@aberdeencity.gov.uk