

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	21 August 2013
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Executive
TITLE OF REPORT	First Minister's professional conduct; Aberdeen Donside by-election – Motion by Councillor Young
REPORT NUMBER:	OCE/13/025

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report brings before the Council the response received by the Chief Executive from Sir Peter Housden, Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government following her letter to him in the terms of the motion agreed by Council at its meeting on 26 June 2013.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council considers the response received from the Permanent Secretary and decides how it now wishes to proceed.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The report has no specific financial implications.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The report has no other specific implications.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

At its meeting on 26 June 2013 the Council approved the terms of the following motion by Councillor Young:

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to Sir Peter Housden, Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government demanding an investigation into the First Minister's professional conduct during the Aberdeen Donside by-election looking specifically at:-

- i) The First Minister's unannounced visit and lecture on 17 June 2013 to schoolchildren at Bramble Brae School

without reference to Aberdeen City Council Director of Education, Culture and Sport or the Head Teacher of the said school noting that the school is currently subject to statutory consultation regarding its future within the wider school estate.

- ii) The First Minister's unannounced visit to Hazlehead Park on 17 June 2013 a park owned wholly by Aberdeen City Council again without reference to the said City Council in the middle of a by-election and whilst welcoming the announcement of a £100,000 Scottish Government donation to the Piper Alpha Memorial Trust purdah rules seem to have been ignored.

Instructs the Chief Executive to report back to the Council on the response received from the Permanent Secretary, in order for the Council to determine its position on this matter.

Attached are copies of the letter sent to the Permanent Secretary by the Chief Executive on 1 July 2013 and the reply dated 6 August received from him.

6. IMPACT

The report has no specific impact on the delivery of the Council's business plan or the Council's role in delivering the Single Outcome Agreement. The correspondence between the Council and the Scottish Government has been the subject of public interest.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The report fulfils the instruction to bring back to the Council the response received from the Permanent Secretary in order that it might determine its position on the matter.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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