

Question from Councillor McCaig

To the Convener of Audit and Risk

- (1) To ask the convener of Audit and Risk if he believes there is a significant risk to the council of confidential reports being leaked to the press and what actions he feels group leaders should take with regards to members of their group commenting in public about reports containing commercially sensitive information?

Answer:-

"The term "confidential" has a specific meaning under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended by the Local Government Access to Information Act 1985. I am unaware of this Council - from May 2007 onwards - ever having a confidential report in front of it.

All councillors have signed a statement agreeing to abide by the Code of Conduct and I would expect them to adhere to it accordingly. I would not expect any member to discuss or pass on exempt information in public. My advice to Group Leaders would be that they remind their members of their obligations under the Code of Conduct; however, if any specific action is required, then that is a matter for each individual Group in accordance with its own procedures."

Councillor McCaig has stated that he is not completely satisfied with the above response.