

22 JUNE 2018

NALC AND SLCC JOINT STATEMENT ON THE LEDBURY CASE

NALC and SLCC have today written to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Committee on Standards in Public Life and Local Government Association to highlight their concerns about a recent legal judgement which will make it more difficult for local (parish and town) councils to resolve disputes between councillors and their employees.

This decision confines most complaints about councillors to the code of conduct process. Employees will now not generally be able to use their councils' grievance procedures if the subject of their grievance is a complaint about a councillor. Inevitably, this will lead to more principal authority involvement in local council matters and place additional burdens on already hard-pressed Monitoring Officers. It is also likely that matters which previously would have been dealt with fairly quickly within a council will take substantively longer when dealt with by the principal authority.

This decision will impact on the corporate wellbeing of councils and NALC and SLCC have therefore called for urgent discussions to try and find a sensible way forward to streamline processes and ensure quick and fair resolution of disputes.

The full High Court judgment in the case of R (Harvey) v Ledbury Town Council [2018] EWHC 1151 (Admin) on 15 May 2018 can be found at:
<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2018/1151.html>

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