

Burnley Borough Council
Legal & Democratic Services
Town Hall, Manchester Road
Burnley, Lancashire BB11 9SA
Tel: 01282 425011

Councillor Alan Hosker
2 Bright Street
Padiham
BB12 8RA

Our Ref LS/CEW

Your ref

Date 5/3/19

Dear Councillor Hosker,

RE: COMPLAINT: FACEBOOK ACTIVITY

Thank you for your letter of 25th February 2019. Whilst I am disappointed you have declined to meet with me to be interviewed regarding the complaint, I consider it to be good practice to give you the opportunity to consider and answer the questions that I would have asked you, had you agreed to be interviewed.

Please find the questions below. I should be grateful if you would respond to these questions by no later than 4pm on 8th March 2019.

I attach for your information a copy of the email string which gave rise to the complaint.

1. Did you "like" the comment that described Julie Cooper MP as a "robbing blatch?"
2. Did you post the comment immediately after which described her actions as "taking the p?"
3. As an elected member you have agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct for Members. Within the code members are subject to a number of general principles including "Respect for others" and are required to treat people with respect regardless of their race, age, religion, gender sexual orientation or disability. You must also not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute. Do you consider your behaviour in liking and posting the comments above are in breach of the Code of Conduct?
4. Do you consider that fair minded people, and women in particular might be offended by you liking the comment and the posting your own comments?

5. You are aware that the Council has received a complaint about your actions on your Borough Councillor and County Councillor Facebook page, and the complainant has accused you of misogynistic abuse. What do you say in response to that allegation?
6. You will be aware that there have been previous complaints of you posting/ allowing third parties to post inappropriate and offensive content on your Councillor Facebook page, which have been upheld. What steps, if any, have you taken to consider whether what you are proposing to post online is acceptable?
7. You have previously been offered training on social media and data protection, but you refused this offer. Do you wish to reconsider the offer?
8. Please use this opportunity to say anything else that you wish to say.

If you change your mind and wish to be interviewed about the complaint, please give me a ring and I will arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Waudby
Head of Legal and Democratic Services