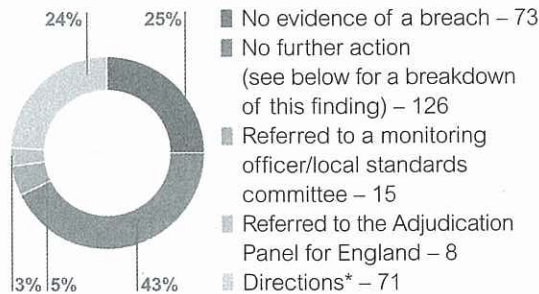


Standards Board investigations 2007-08

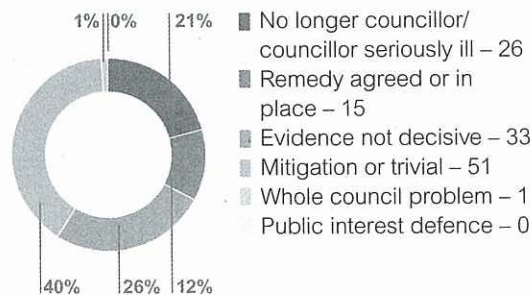
From April 2007-March 2008, the Standards Board referred 524 allegations for investigation. During the same period, 285 allegations that were referred for investigation were sent to monitoring officers for local investigation.

The Standards Board's ethical standards officers made 293 final findings in investigations



*In some cases, our ethical standards officers have the option of issuing monitoring officers with directions to take action to solve local problems – for example, training for the whole authority or guidance on proper procedures. The aim is to help the authority improve its own effectiveness and conduct, at a far lower cost in time and money than an investigation. Often we issue directions in situations where we believe a case has broad relevance for the overall governance of an authority.

Breakdown of findings of 'no further action'



When we complete an investigation, we may decide to take no action in relation to the subject of the complaint. This is often because the appropriate action has already been taken. For example, apologies may have been made or a registration of interests completed. Sometimes, having examined all the evidence, it is insufficient to decide that there was a breach of the Code of Conduct. Changes to legislation mean that this is the last year when 'no further action' findings will cover such a range of different outcomes.

Adjudication Panel for England determinations 2007-08

Of the 293 final findings, we sent eight cases to the Adjudication Panel in 2007-08, one of which is yet to be heard. The Adjudication Panel made ten determinations, as three cases were heard in 2007-08 but referred in 2006-07.

Of the ten determinations made by the Adjudication Panel in 2007-08:

- 0 no sanction
- 1 no breach
- 4 disqualified for 15 months to five years
- 2 suspended for up to a year
- 3 disqualified for up to a year

Standards committee determinations

We sent 15 cases to standards committees in 2007-08 following investigations by Standards Board ethical standards officers.

Of these, three are still to be heard. Standards committees made 14 determinations, as two cases were heard in 2007-08 but referred in 2006-07.

- 10 suspension (including training and apology)
- 1 no breach
- 1 censure
- 1 training
- 0 partial suspension
- 1 censure and training
- 0 apology and training