

## Question on Notice

No. 934

Asked on 21 August 2018

**MS A LEAHY** asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon S Hinchliffe) –

### QUESTION:

With reference to complaints made against Ipswich City Council since March 2016—

Will the Minister advise the date on which the department received each complaint and if all of the complaints were referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission or to other agencies?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Warrego for the question.

My Department has advised that all complaints referred directly to it are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2009* (Local Government Act). Where an officer holds a reasonable suspicion of corrupt conduct, complaints are referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC).

Many complaints in relation to Councillor conduct are also lodged directly with the CCC. The Department receives numerous, often very serious allegations, from members of the public by mail, email and phone. Notwithstanding the very serious nature of many of these communications, at times very little specific detail is provided. In those instances, the person is urged to refer the matter directly to the CCC with any and all additional information. Contact details for the CCC are provided to the member of the public for that very reason.

Alternatively, complainants can approach the CCC directly with a complaint about a Council without first notifying the Department. The Department does not specifically monitor these complaints.

From 1 March 2016 to 23 August 2018, 18 Councillor conduct complaints have been received by the Department in relation to Ipswich City Council.

Complaints were received on the following dates and dealt with in accordance with the Local Government Act:

1. 3 August 2016
  - Received from the CCC. Not referred to any agency.
2. 17 August 2016
  - Received from the CCC. Referred to the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal.

3. 24 October 2016
  - Received from member of the public. Referred to Council CEO for preliminary assessment.
4. 3 January 2017
  - Received from the CCC. Not referred to any agency.
5. 13 June 2017
  - Received from the CEO. Referred to a Regional Conduct Review Panel.
6. 29 June 2017
  - Received from member of the public. Referred to Council CEO for preliminary assessment.
7. 30 August 2017
  - Received from member of the public. Referred to Council CEO for preliminary assessment.
8. 1 February 2018
  - Received from the CCC. CCC resumed responsibility for the complaint.
9. 5 February 2018
  - Received from member of the public. Not referred to any agency.
10. 5 February 2018
  - Received from member of the public. Not referred to any agency.
11. 9 February 2018
  - Received from member of the public. Referred to Council CEO for preliminary assessment.
12. 9 February 2018
  - Received from the CCC. Not referred to any agency.
13. 27 February 2018
  - Received from the CEO. Not referred to any agency.
14. 2 March 2018
  - Received from the CCC. CCC resumed responsibility for the complaint.
15. 13 June 2018
  - Received from the CEO. Referred to the CCC.

Complaints were received on the following dates and are being dealt with in accordance with the Local Government Act:

16. 20 July 2018
  - Received from the CEO (under assessment).
17. 30 July 2018
  - Received from the CCC (under assessment).
18. 10 August 2018
  - Received from member of the public (under assessment).