



DECISION NOTICE: FINDING THAT THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT HAS BEEN BREACHED

*Local Government Act 2000
The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008*

Findings

On 16th June 2009 the Standards Committee of the South Hams District Council found that Cllr Julian Brazil, the member of South Hams District Council for the ward of Saltstone failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct.

The Committee found that when attending an official meeting between the owner of a business in his ward, an officer of the Council (the complainant) and an officer of the Department of Work and Pensions on 11th June 2008, Cllr Brazil challenged the officers' presence and their right to be there, acted towards them in an aggressive and intimidating fashion and said he would look into the complainant's employment status in a manner that she found offensive and threatening.

There being no substantive denial as to the events taking place that day the Committee was satisfied and unanimously found that Cllr Brazil had behaved in the manner complained of and therefore concluded that he had breached the Code of Conduct in the following respects:

- he failed to treat other people with respect, contrary to paragraph 3(1);
- he bullied the complainant, contrary to paragraph 3(2)(b);
- he compromised the impartiality of a person who works for the authority, contrary to paragraph 3(2)(d); and
- he conducted himself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing his office or authority into disrepute, contrary to paragraph 5.

Sanctions and the reasons for imposing them:

- (1) Cllr Brazil is suspended from office as a South Hams District Councillor for three months commencing at 1700 on 19th June and while suspended -
- (2) He must write a satisfactory letter of apology to the complainant and her colleague
- (3) He must undergo accredited training in the Code of Conduct.

Appeal

Cllr Brazil has a right to seek permission to appeal from the President of the Adjudication Panel for England about the findings or the sanctions imposed.

*Delyth Jenkins Evans, Monitoring Officer, South Hams District Council
18th June 2009*