

5. Question from Mr Mike Wilson, Lugwardine

On matters of procedure:

- 5.1 *In a recent request to the Standards Committee, for review of an Assessment sub-committee decision, the Review sub-committee failed to comply with the timescale laid down in the Act of Parliament, namely 3 months. What action has been taken for this breach of the Law and what actions have been taken to ensure it does not happen in the future?*
- 5.2 *The Standards Board for England (SBE) in its document on Local Assessment of Complaints states that Standards Committees are to develop Assessment Criteria, which are to be available to the public. Are these in existence and where may they be found? A search-engine search of the website failed to produce them.*
- 5.3 *In the complaint at question 5.1, the Standards Committee's decision notices contained errors of fact (again) and also stated that evidence was not submitted. The document at question 2 clearly shows the task of the sub-committees to be to consider if there was a POTENTIAL breach of the Code of Conduct. To be requiring evidence at this stage is premature and implies the committees are making findings without the full evidence. To quote the document "The assessment and review sub-committees make no findings of fact". If this is the case were the decisions valid and are the sub-committees carrying out the task for which they were set up or are they exceeding their remit?*
- 5.4 *Why is the Standards Committee exempt from any form of scrutiny and apparently answerable to no one?*