Leicestershire County Council

Mr Joseph Boam CC
County Councillor for Whitwick

Date: 4 November 2026
My Ref:
Your Ref:
Contact: Fiona McMillan
Phone:
Email:

Dear Mr Boam CC,

Member Conduct Panel hearing 30 October 2026 – finding of breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct

I am writing in my capacity as the Council's Monitoring Officer, at the direction of the Council's Member Conduct Panel, following the hearing held on the morning of Friday, 30 October 2026.

At that hearing, the Panel decided to conduct the hearing in your absence, noting that you had not provided a reason for your absence, and to hold the hearing in public session. It unanimously found that you had breached the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of statements made at a meeting of the Corporate Governance Committee and your subsequent social media posts relating to the former Monitoring Officer of the County Council.

The Panel's findings

The Panel unanimously found breaches of the following provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct:

- **Paragraph 2.3.2** – As a member, I will treat council officers, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the Council with respect and respect the role they play;
- **Paragraph 2.12** – As a member, I will not compromise, or attempt to compromise, the impartiality of anyone who works for, or on behalf of, the Council.

The Panel found that, in relation to paragraph **2.3.2**, the publication of an extract from the response given by the former Monitoring Officer at the Corporate Governance Committee meeting, without the fuller explanation which immediately

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followed, gave a materially misleading impression of her response. The subsequent public allegation that she was not impartial amounted to an unreasonable personal attack upon her professional integrity and failed to respect both her and the statutory role she performed.

The Panel also found that, in relation to paragraph **2.12**, the public allegation of partiality went beyond legitimate scrutiny or criticism of the Council's complaints process. Viewed in its full context, the Panel determined that your conduct sought to undermine confidence in the former Monitoring Officer's impartial and independent discharge of her functions and that this amounted to an attempt to compromise her impartiality.

In addition to the above, the Panel found that your conduct was contrary to the Protocol on Member Officer Relations at Part 5C of the Constitution:

Paragraph 12 - "*Members should not raise matters relating to the conduct or capability of officers, either individually or collectively, at meetings held in public or in the press. Officers have no means of responding to such criticism in public. If Members feel that they have not been treated with proper respect and courtesy or have any concern about the conduct or capability of an officer they should raise it using the process outlined at paragraph 51 of this protocol*."

Paragraph 13 – "*Members will not publish any material which criticises, disparages or undermines officers, either directly or indirectly, including through anonymised references or comments which could reasonably identify an individual or group of officers, including through their agents or political groups. This applies equally to communications and interactions conducted through digital and online channels, including email, messaging platforms and social media*."

Sanctions imposed

Having made the above findings, the Panel unanimously imposed the following sanctions:

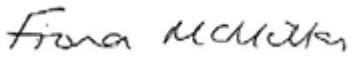
1. **Formal censure**: You are formally censured for the conduct set out in the Investigation Report.
2. **Formal notification:** The Monitoring Officer is to write to you setting out the Panel's decision and the sanctions imposed.
3. **Public apology**: You are required to issue a written public apology to the former Monitoring Officer, using the wording agreed by the Panel, within 14 days of the hearing. The apology will be published on the Council's Member Conduct website alongside this letter. The agreed wording is appended below.
4. **Recommendation to your Group Leader and Group Whip**: The Monitoring Officer is to write to the Leader and Group Whip of the Reform UK Group to recommend that you be removed from all Council committees and outside

bodies, other than any appointments which are specifically related to your electoral division, until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2027.

The Panel further decided that a copy of this letter should be published on the Member Conduct page of the Council's website and displayed on the Member Conduct webpage for a period of six months.

Please treat this letter as formal notification of the Panel's decision and the sanctions imposed.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona McMillan

Chief Legal Officer & Monitoring Officer

Agreed wording of public apology

I apologise for publishing material which gave a misleading impression of the former Monitoring Officer's response and for publicly questioning her professional impartiality. I accept that this failed to show proper respect for her and her statutory role and that it was inappropriate.