



Northern Ireland

**Local Government
Commissioner for Standards**

8th May 2024

John Walsh
Belfast City Council

Dear John

Re; Local Government Commissioner for Standards Annual Report

Please find enclosed a copy of my report for the 2022/23 financial year acting in my role as the Northern Ireland Local Government Commissioner for Standards. The report can also be accessed at

[Annual Reports | NIPSO](#)

I would ask that you bring this report to the attention of elected representatives.

I am pleased to note improved performance and in particular:

- a. Key performance Indicators for both the assessment and investigation of allegations met
- b. More decisions taken earlier in our case handling process
- c. A reduction in the number of allegations carried forward into 2023/24
- d. As of year end 23/24 any outstanding older cases now closed or in adjudication.

In addition my staff undertook a number of surveys to assist with our work in improving standards in public life. The surveys were issued to Councillors, Council Chief Executives and other senior council staff and those who made allegations that a councillor may have breached the code of conduct. The surveys helped us to identify those things that we do well and the areas where we need to make improvement. Work is now underway to develop new resources and updated guidance to help improve councillors understanding their obligations as set out in the code of conduct

Yours sincerely

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Kelly".

MARGARET KELLY

Northern Ireland Local Government Commissioner for Standards