

*These notes refer to the Local Government Act 2000
(c.22) which received Royal Assent on 28 July 2000*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

Part Iii: Conduct of Local Government Members and Employees

Commentary on sections

Section 59: Functions of ethical standards officers

134. *Section 59* specifies the functions of ethical standards officers. Their main function will be to investigate allegations that a member or former member of a relevant authority has breached its code of conduct. Ethical standards officers may also investigate any associated cases that have come to their attention as a result of undertaking an investigation into a written allegation.
135. This section also states that the purpose of an investigation by an ethical standards officer is to make one of the following findings:
- that there is no evidence of a failure to comply with a code of conduct; or
 - that there is no need to take action on the matter investigated; or
 - that the matter should be referred back to the monitoring officer of the relevant authority to deal with (in the case of a former member who is now a member of another relevant authority, the ethical standards officer must decide to which monitoring officer to refer the matter); or
 - that the matters which are subject of the investigation should be referred to the president of the Adjudication Panel for England.