


Non-Executive Report of the: Standards Advisory Committee Thursday, 30 September 2021	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Open (Unrestricted)
Register of Gifts and Hospitality - Quarterly Update	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion; Head of Democratic Services Patricia Attawia; Democratic Services Team Leader (Civic and Members)
Wards affected	(All Wards);

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the declarations of gifts and/or hospitality received from Members since the previous report to the committee on 1 July 2021.

Standards Advisory Committee are receiving this report as it monitors compliance with the requirement in the Council Code of Conduct for Members to register any offer of gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25.

Recommendations:

The Standards Advisory Committee is recommended to:

1. Review, comment on and note the report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 There is a statutory requirement for the Council to adopt a Code of Conduct for Members. For the purpose of the Code a member includes the Mayor, elected Councillors and Co-opted Members of the Authority.
- 1.2 The Council's code of Conduct (paragraph 25) requires a Member to register the offer of any gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25 and the person from whom it is received.

2. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

2.1 This is a noting report.

3. **DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

3.1 The table below provides a copy of the Register of Gifts and Hospitality declared from 1 July to 31 August. If additional declarations are received after this date the details will be brought to the meeting. A total of 2 declarations were made during this period, which were declared on time within the 28 day notification period.

Name	Date offered	Type	Accepted/ Declined	Date declared	On time	Provided by	Estimated Value	Description
Cllr Mohammed Ahabab Hossain	03.08.21	Gift	Accepted	23.08.21	Yes	Asik Rahman	£150	Cake for Speaker's Reception
Cllr Candida Ronald	24.08.21	Hospitality	Declined	24.08.21	Yes	Canary Wharf Group	£50	Dinner

The Impact of the Pandemic

3.2 The impact of the pandemic can still be seen on the limited number of gifts and hospitality being received. The continuing threat of the Covid-19 pandemic has kept the number of events and occasions that Members might attend very low, reducing the number of related declarations of gifts and hospitality.

Register updates

3.3 A reminder was sent to all Members at the beginning of September to ensure their registers of interests and declarations of gifts and hospitality were up to date. Members were asked to complete any outstanding declarations (links to the forms being provided) or respond confirming they had nothing to declare. Any updates received will be recorded and published where appropriate.

3.4 The Committee will be provided with an update as to how many Members have responded to this reminder.

3.5 The next reminder on updating registers of interest and gifts and declarations will be sent towards the end of the year and will be reported to an upcoming meeting as appropriate.

4. **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

5.2 None arising from this report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to have a code of conduct and Section 28 of the same Act sets out the matters which the code must address. The Code of Conduct for members is part of the Constitution. Paragraph 25 requires all offers of gifts or hospitality worth over £25 to be declared within 28 days, whether or not accepted.

7.2 The matters set out in this report comply with the above legislation and with the Constitution.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- Gifts and Hospitality updates at each Standards Advisory Committee meeting

Appendices

- None

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None

Officer contact details for documents:
N/A