

The City of Edinburgh Council

10am, Thursday, 14 December 2017

Standards Commission for Scotland – Decision of Hearing Panel – Lord Provost Councillor Frank Ross

Item number 8.4

Report number

Executive/routine

Wards

Council Commitments

Executive Summary

The Standards Commission for Scotland considered a complaint against Lord Provost Councillor Frank Ross, alleging that he had contravened the Councillors' Code of Conduct, in particular paragraphs 4.2 and 4.20. The finding was that there had been a breach of the Code.

Standards Commission for Scotland – Decision of Hearing Panel – Lord Provost Councillor Frank Ross

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To consider the decision by the Hearing Panel of the Standards Commission for Scotland into a complaint about a member of the Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Standards Commission for Scotland considered a complaint against Lord Provost Councillor Frank Ross, alleging that he had contravened the Councillors' Code of Conduct, in particular paragraphs 4.2 and 4.20.
- 2.2 The Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland had investigated the complaint, found that in his opinion the Lord Provost had breached the Code and referred the matter for decision to the Standards Commission.

3. Main report

- 3.1 A hearing was held on 29 November 2017. The Hearing Panel considered all the evidence and found that Lord Provost Councillor Frank Ross had contravened the Councillors' Code of Conduct. The Hearing Panel decided under Section 19(1)(A) of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 to censure Lord Provost Councillor Frank Ross.
- 3.2 Section 18 (3) of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 requires that the decision of the hearing panel is reported to the Council to consider its content within three months. This consideration can not be delegated to a committee or an officer.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 The Council considers the decision of the Standards Commission for Scotland within the statutory timescale.

5. Financial impact

5.1 There is no financial impact as a result of this report.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

6.1 The Council is required to consider the decision of the Hearing Panel within three months of the decision. It should be noted that as at the date of this report to Council the decision remains within the period for appeal.

7. Equalities impact

7.1 There are no equalities impact as a result of this report.

8. Sustainability impact

8.1 There is no sustainability impact as a result of this report.

9. Consultation and engagement

9.1 Not applicable.

10. Background reading/external references

10.1 [Councillors' Code of Conduct](#) (Standards Commission for Scotland website)

10.2 [Decision of the Hearing Panel](#) (Standards Commission for Scotland Website)

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11. Appendices

None