

Decision Notice

Date of Determination: 22 February 2024

Complainant: Mrs V Gleisinger

Councillor: Councillor Mark Ault

Summary of Complaint:

The Complaint is in relation to:

- (a) Correspondence between Councillor Ault and the Rt Hon James Cleverly's office, and in particular the email exchange between Councillor Ault and Mrs Gleisinger, Chief of Staff and Parliamentary Assistant to the Rt. Hon James Cleverly between 13th and 17th January 2024; and
- (b) The publishing of those emails on Social Media.

Code of Conduct

The Complaint was considered against the following provisions set out within the Council's Code of Conduct:

- (a) You must treat others with respect; and
- (b) You must not bully any person.

Findings of the Monitoring Officer:

The Monitoring Officer has determined that Councillor Ault has breached the Braintree District Council Code of Conduct, having regards to the full facts of this matter, and the views of the Independent Person.

With agreement of the Independent Person, the Monitoring Officer does not believe that this complaint warrants a full investigation. The elements identified are clear and the findings of a full investigation will not bring about a different outcome.

Monitoring Officer Advice

The Monitoring Officer has recommended that Councillor Ault:

- (a) Issue a written apology to Mrs Gleisinger for the distressed caused to her as a result of the email correspondence and his actions; and
- (b) Undertakes relevant training to further understand the role of a District Councillor, and the impact of unconscious bias.

Kim Mayo
Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Published: 23rd February 2024