

## STANDARDS COMPLAINT DECISION NOTICE

<b>Complaint ref</b>	CoC01216
<b>Subject Member</b>	Cllr Ewen Sinclair
<b>Council</b>	Ledbury Town Council
<b>Date of decision</b>	17 October 2022
<b>Breach of the code (Y/N)</b>	Yes

### DECISION

On 17 October 2022, a senior solicitor considered a complaint alleging that Councillor Sinclair (the Subject Member) may have acted in breach of the Ledbury Town Council code of conduct for members. The appointed independent persons were consulted and their views considered in the determination of this matter.

The Senior Solicitor has concluded that Councillor Sinclair did breach the Ledbury Town Council code of conduct.

#### Summary of complaint

In an email sent to all Ledbury Town councillors the subject member appears to mock the use of the gender pronouns that are included in the email footer of an officer of Herefordshire Council (the officer was not copied into this email).

In the same email to the councillors the subject member goes on to state that he cannot take the subject matter of the email seriously because of the footer used by the Herefordshire Council officer. The complainant is of the view that this breaches the first Nolan principle of selflessness and specifically standard of conduct A.3 "treat everyone that they deal with equally and with respect and dignity".

#### Reasons

The Senior Solicitor carefully considered the comments of the complaint, Cllr Sinclair and the Independent Persons.

The email sent by Cllr Sinclair is considered to have breached Standard of Conduct A.3 of the Ledbury Town Council Code of Conduct and I would advise that Cllr Sinclair attends the next code of conduct training arranged by the Town Clerk.