

Bridging the gap: towards strategic regulation

Patricia Hughes, Deputy Chair,
The Standards Board for England

Standards Board case handling

In 2005/06:

- 3,836 complaints received
- 687 complaints referred for investigation
- 57 standards committee hearings
- 77 cases were presented by the Standards Board to the Adjudication Panel for a hearing

68% of cases are now dealt with at a local level

Local investigations and hearings

- Overall going well
- Some difficulties
- More guidance and support planned

Local allegations in 2005

- District councils averaged five allegations each
- County, unitary and metropolitan borough councils averaged six allegations each
- 15% of district councils had no allegations
- 34% of county, unitary and metropolitan borough councils had no allegations
- 551 parish and town councils averaged three allegations each

Challenges ahead

- Local filter – making it work
- Balance between local discretion and consistency
- Revised Code of Conduct

The Standards Board for England

- Increasingly strategic
- Investigating the vital few
- Ensuring public confidence in the system

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