

## Appendix F2 - Comments from Complainant on the Investigator's Report

E-mail dated 25 August 2023 to the Investigator:

Dear Richard,  
I have no real comment to add.  
Regards  
Adrian Abbs

E-mail exchange dated 5 September 2023 with the Deputy Monitoring Officer:

**From:** Nicola Thomas <[Nicola.Thomas1@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:Nicola.Thomas1@westberks.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023 9:25 AM  
**To:** Adrian Abbs <[Adrian.Abbs1@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:Adrian.Abbs1@westberks.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** FW: FINAL REPORT ON DOHERTY / ABBS COMPLAINT

Dear Cllr Abbs,

Please find attached the password to enable you to access the report.

Regards,  
Nicki

**Nicola Thomas (she/ her)**  
**Solicitor –Service Lead, Legal and Democratic Services**

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**From:** Adrian Abbs <[Adrian.Abbs1@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:Adrian.Abbs1@westberks.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023 12:38 PM  
**To:** Nicola Thomas <[Nicola.Thomas1@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:Nicola.Thomas1@westberks.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: FINAL REPORT ON DOHERTY / ABBS COMPLAINT

Thank You Nicola,  
I have a major concern having now read the "Final" compared to the draft I was sent.

### **Draft said**

8.6 I have therefore concluded that Cllr Abbs breached Paragraph 4.1 (a) of the WBC Code of Conduct by failing to show courtesy and / or respect to Cllr Ardagh-Walter by interrupting and talking over him.

### **Final says**

8.6 By his own admission, Cllr Abbs interrupted Cllr Ardagh-Walter and as can be seen from the video, he talked loudly over Cllr Doherty and answered her back 10 when she attempted to restore order. Although as explained in paragraph 8.17 below, I do not consider that Cllr Doherty handled the situation in the best way but that does not detract from the fact that Cllr Abbs was, in my view, disrespectful towards her as well as towards Cllr Ardagh-Walter.

8.7 I have therefore concluded that Cllr Abbs breached Paragraph 4.1 (a) of the WBC Code of Conduct by failing to show courtesy and / or respect to Cllr Ardagh-Walter and Cllr Doherty by interrupting and talking over them.

This is significant and substantial change without explanation of why – I am especially concerned as I had no sight of the changes that are now made.

I have to ask why such a significant change between a draft, which I was invited to comment on, and what you have just sent.

Why did the inspector change his mind when no new evidence was presented?

Regards  
Adrian

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**From:** Nicola Thomas <[Nicola.Thomas1@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:Nicola.Thomas1@westberks.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023 1:52 PM  
**To:** Adrian Abbs <[Adrian.Abbs1@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:Adrian.Abbs1@westberks.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: FINAL REPORT ON DOHERTY / ABBS COMPLAINT

Dear Cllr Abbs,

Thank you for your email.

Under the constitution the complainant and you can comment on the initial report. On considering the comments, the final report is produced by the independent assessor. The report, along with comments from the relevant parties is then assessed at the Governance Committee's Advisory Panel. Whilst the report is in a final version, it will be for the Advisory Panel to consider if they concur with the investigator's finding and if necessary, make recommendations to the Governance Committee.

The full details are in Part 13 Appendix E [https://www.westberks.gov.uk/media/38477/Constitution-Part-13-Codes-and-Protocols/pdf/Part\\_13\\_-\\_Codes\\_and\\_Protocols\\_update\\_September\\_2019.pdf?m=638182952139030000](https://www.westberks.gov.uk/media/38477/Constitution-Part-13-Codes-and-Protocols/pdf/Part_13_-_Codes_and_Protocols_update_September_2019.pdf?m=638182952139030000)

I hope that clarifies the process.

Best wishes,

**Nicola Thomas (she/ her)**  
**Solicitor –Service Lead, Legal and Democratic Services**

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Understood and thanks

It's the dramatic change that I find strange.  
Can that be brought to the attention of the Advisory Panel?

Regards  
Adrian