

Dear Sarah,

I would like to submit in writing to you my official complaint against Councillor Adrian Abbs, following his conduct at the Executive Meeting of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2023. I believe that Councillor Abbs has breached both our own Code of Conduct for Members and the Nolan Principles.

The evidence of this can be found at 1hour 36 minutes of this video recording - <https://www.youtube.com/live/eAEWzt-ZeA8?feature=share&t=5760>

Cllr Abbs disrupted the meeting by refusing to let Cllr Ardagh-Water respond to him. On the first occasion as Chairman I let this go but when Cllr Abbs continued, despite Cllr Ardagh Waters polite request for him to be able to answer, I attempted to end the disruption with use of the gavel.

You can watch for yourself what happened next.

I believe the evidence shows the following breaches of our Code of Conduct –  
4.1 a) Treat councillors, co-opted members, officers, members of the public and service providers with courtesy and respect.  
4.2 (a) Engage in bullying or intimidating behaviour or behaviour which could be regarded as bullying or intimidation  
4.2 (f) Conduct themselves in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing their office or the Council into disrepute.

I would particularly highlight to you 4.2 a and the Nolan Principle of Respect for Others.

You will hear on film Cllr Abbs comments to me about ‘no respect for me’ specifically.

As I walked passed him he repeated these in an insulting and intimidating manner. I believe that Cllr Abbs treatment specifically direct at me was an attempt to undermine my position and was highly intimidating.

I am sure that those witnesses in the Chamber will be able to support this, especially the way in which he responded to me when I asked him to leave the Chamber, which he flatly refused to do and sat challenging me as to what happens next.

All of my actions were guided by both the CEO and the legal representative at the meeting.

I would appreciate if you would investigate this matter.

Kind Regards

Lynne

**Cllr Lynne Doherty**

Leader, West Berkshire Council  
Newbury Speen Ward - Conservative