

## Appendix 2

### **FAQ for Members**

#### **What does suspension mean for my role?**

Suspension can last up to 6 months for serious breaches. During suspension, you may lose allowances and access to council premises/facilities.

#### **Will I still receive my allowance if suspended?**

Not necessarily. Standards committees will have discretion to withhold allowances for serious breaches.

#### **What is interim suspension?**

This applies when serious allegations are under police investigation or pending court proceedings. It lasts up to 3 months initially, with regular reviews.

#### **Can I appeal a suspension decision?**

Yes. You will have a local right of review first. If still dissatisfied, you can appeal to a national appeals body.

#### **What happens if I am suspended twice?**

If you receive two suspensions of the maximum 6-month period within 5 years, you will be disqualified from office.

#### **Will complaints against me be published?**

Yes, but only after investigations conclude. Outcomes will include whether the complaint was upheld or dismissed.

#### **What support will I get during an investigation?**

Government plans to require councils to provide individual support for both complainants and respondents, including guidance and possibly access to independent advice.