

APPENDIX  
(Council Minute 75/22, 6 December 2022 refers)

**From:** Peter Wiseman  
**Sent:** 24 November 2022 12:18  
**To:** Newman, Julie <[Julie.Newman@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.Newman@coventry.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Code of conduct initial review - private and confidential

Dear Julie,

I have considered Cllr. Duggins' complaint and reviewed the following:

1. Letter Cllr. Duggins to Cllr. Ridley 18 October 2022
2. The statement of Cllr. Duggins made to the Council at its meeting on 18 October 2022 and his replies to questions from Cllr. Ridley in the Q&A session
3. Recordings of a BBC CWR item and a Twitter post in which the Council's CEO was being questioned by a journalist
4. The draft initial assessment prepared following Ms. Claire Ward's consideration of the issues.

I have been unable to open *The Times* article but the salient features to emerge from it are referred to elsewhere and I do not think that I am inhibited in forming a view on the complaint because of this.

I conclude that the Council, through its senior officer(s) was in close contact with the events concerning Wasps and ACL at the material time. This included Hottinger and possible other interested third parties. There is nothing to support the suggestion that a support package from the Council was in the course of being contemplated or prepared.

I have no doubt that Cllr. Duggins would have been receiving reports on developments on such a vitally important issue. There is no evidence that he became directly involved in any of the moves or discussions. I am satisfied that in his letter to Cllr. Ridley and in his statement and responses in the Q&A session, he was being truthful. It follows that there is no prima facie evidence to support an allegation of dishonesty. I do not believe that there are any further inquiries to be made nor for there to be an investigation under Stage 2 of the Council's complaints procedure.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything you wish to discuss.

Kind regards,

Peter

Tel:  
Sent from my iPad