

Covering email from Ben Spencer, County Council

26 April 2019

I refer to the Decision Notice dated 15 March 2019 in accordance with which I attach a copy of the draft report dated 21 February 2018 ('the Draft Report'). The Decision Notice set out that the Council should provide an explanatory note with the disclosure of the Draft Report.

Explanatory Note

In response to your email dated 10 December 2017, the Council instigated its Complaints Policy and confirmed to you in its email dated 20 December 2017 that the 'Review Stage' of the policy would be applied to your complaint. As the Complaints Policy states, that stage "reviews whether the complaint was fully and fairly considered and everything possible was done to resolve the complaint." In other words, the Review Stage considers the decision-making process, not the decision itself, as was confirmed in Dan Barton's report dated 26 April 2018 ('the Report'). This is what the Report does.

The Draft Report was produced as a consequence of a misunderstanding as to the nature of the review required by the Review Stage. That is clear from the nature of the conclusions drawn in the Draft Report, when compared with the stated scope of the Review Stage. This is why the Council considered that disclosure of the Draft Report could mislead public debate.

If you have any further queries, please feel free to contact me or Steve Tweedie, though please note Steve is away from the office until Monday 29 April 2019.

Thanks

Ben

Ben Spencer

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