

Slough Borough Council - Local Determination of Complaints

Paragraph number from the MO's report	Reasons for disagreeing with the findings of fact provided in that paragraph	Suggestion as to how the paragraph should read
6.1 3	DM is Complaining the first incident was on 25th may but providing no independent witnesses. why MO has failed to ask DM for the evidence?	The MO should clarify to the Sub-committee if there is no evidence about any incident that took place on 25 may, that means DM is either confused or lying.
4.12	"RD is aware it is directed at DM and so is BD." MO has failed to clarify with RD is the card was worked at this training session or earlier meeting?	The MO should clarify with RD when did the actually saw PS waived that laminated sheet?

Please attach additional sheets if necessary

Signed.....

Dated..... 14. 01. 2012

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Please set out below, using the numbered paragraphs, any other evidence you feel is relevant to the allegation made about you

SBC 2010/21

FORM B Councillor Sohal

Other evidence relevant to the allegation

Paragraph number	Details of the evidence
Document 1	Contradictions in DM's Complaint I will point out these at the hearing.
Document 3	I was out of country and not present at Mayor's reception, will bring this out at the hearing
Document 5	DM's Statement mentions Cllr Long & the Leader Cllr. Anderson. I will be questioning this Statement about these 2 Councillors

Continued overleaf

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Paragraph number	Details of the evidence
Document 6	<p>Chir Dhillon's witness statement full of conf contradictions. There are 2 character reference letters to prove that he is not a reliable witness. Also his seating plan is totally ^{totally} fictitious.</p>
Document 8	<p>RD's statement paragraph 3 only reads 'Chir Sohal had the piece of laminated card' but was never mentions that PS waived at this training session.</p>

Please attach separate sheets if necessary

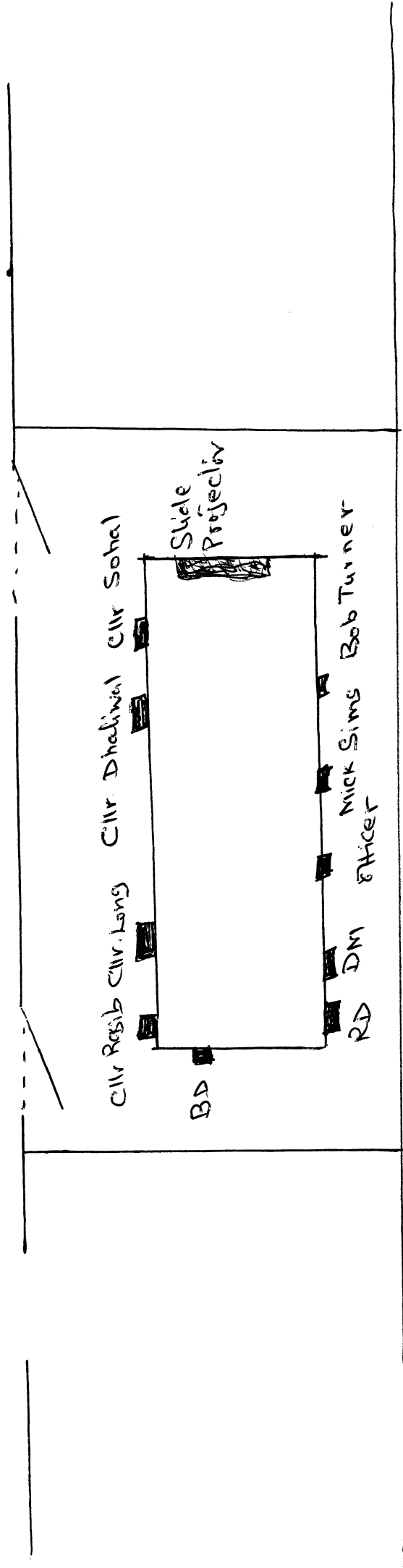
* my version of seating plan is enclosed.

Signed
 Dated 14.02.2012

Seating Plan as on 1st June 2010

Committee Room 2

Corridor First Floor Town Hall



Form D Councillor Sohal SBC 2010/21

Arrangements for the Standards (Local Determination) Sub-Committee hearing

Please circle correct answer

<p>1</p>	<p>The proposed date for the Standards Sub-Committee hearing is given in the accompanying letter. Are you planning to go to the hearing?</p> <p>If "No", please explain why.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO</p>	<p>Reason:</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Are you going to present your own case?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>If you are not presenting your own case, will a representative present it for you?</p> <p>If "Yes", please state the name of your representative.</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO</p>	<p>Name:</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Is your representative a practising solicitor or barrister?</p> <p>If "Yes", please give his or her legal qualifications. Then go to question 6.</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO</p>	<p>Qualifications:</p> <p>N/A</p>

<p>5</p>	<p>Does your representative have any connection with the case?</p> <p>If "Yes", please give details.</p>	<p>YES ↑</p> <p>NO ↑</p>	<p>Details:</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Are you going to call any witnesses?</p> <p>If "Yes", please fill in Form E.</p>	<p>YES ↑</p> <p>NO ↑</p>	<p>There are 4 character reference letters enclosed with these documents, which I request to be placed before the Sub-Committee</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Do you, your representative or your witnesses have any access difficulties (for example, is wheelchair access needed?)</p> <p>If "Yes", please give details</p>	<p>YES ↑</p> <p>NO ↑</p>	<p>Details:</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Do you, your representative or your witnesses have any special needs (for example, is an interpreter needed?)</p> <p>If "Yes", please give details</p>	<p>YES ↑</p> <p>NO ↑</p>	<p>Details:</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Do you want any part of the hearing to be held in private?</p> <p>If "Yes", please give reasons.</p>	<p>YES ↑</p> <p>NO ↑</p>	<p>Reasons:</p> <p>I believe in openness and transparency in public life.</p>

10	Do you want any part of the documents to be withheld from public inspection? If "Yes", please give reasons.	YES ↑ NO ↑	Reasons:
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Please attach separate sheets if necessary.

Signed

Dated..... 14.02.2012

Slough Borough Council - Local Determination of Complaints

Councillor Sohal SBC 2010/21

FORM E

Details of proposed witnesses to be called

<p>Name of witness or witnesses Character reference letters</p>	<p>1 2 3 4.</p>	<p>MR Brian Hewitt (Ex-Councillor & chair of BILD Group) MR Latif Khan (Ex-Councillor & former Mayor) MR Mohan Singh Sohal (Ex-Councillor & vice chair of Labour Party) MR Rashid Khan (Agent for the Election of Wexham Independent councillors)</p>
<p>WITNESS 1</p> <p>a</p> <p>Will the witness give evidence about the allegation? If "Yes", please give an outline of the evidence the witness will give</p>	<p>YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Outline of evidence:</p>
<p>b</p> <p>Will the witness give evidence about what action the Standards Sub-Committee should take if it finds that the Code of Conduct has not been followed? If "Yes", please provide an outline of the evidence which the witness will give.</p>	<p>YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Outline of evidence:</p>

Latif Khan

9th February 2012

Mrs Shabana Kauser
Senior Democratic Services officer
Democratic and Members Services
Slough Borough Council
St Martin's Place
Slough

Dear Shabana

I would be most grateful if you could pass this character reference in respect of Cllr Paul Sohal to the members of the Standards (Determination) Sub Committee when they consider a complaint against him for breach of Local Code of Conduct.

I have known Cllr Sohal since 1993 when we both became elected members of the Royal County of Berkshire. We were there from May 1993 to March 1998. He was Secretary of the County Labour Group and I served as a Chief Whip.

In December 1998 we resigned from the Labour Party and formed an Independent Group. We campaigned in Wexham Lea ward and won all three seats in 2004 election. Paul Sohal was our election organiser and worked hard get us three councillors elected. I became member of the Cabinet during 2004/5 and the Mayor for 2005/6. During my six year period of Wexham Lea representative, Paul has never interfered or influenced us to get anything done.

I retired from my employment on 30th November 2008 and went to Pakistan in February 2009. I came back in May 2009 and had to go back to Pakistan in two weeks time as my brother was taken ill.

While I was in Pakistan Paul Sohal rang me and told me that some of the officers of the Labour Party has approached him and asked if all of us would like to come back to the Labour Party. I told him to consult with the members who are present and as far as I am aware he did consult. I do know that some members of our group were not happy however I told him categorically that I would not rejoin the Labour Party or for that matter any other party but I would have no problem him rejoining the Labour Party. I believe this was a matter of personal choice and wished him best of luck.

I found Paul a respectful and trustworthy person who has been serving the local community selflessly for a long time. He has always shown respect and love for others. He gets on well with people from different communities.

Kind Regards

Latif Khan

Ms Shabana Kauser
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Democratic & Members Services
Slough Borough Council
Slough

10 February 2012

Dear Ms Kauser,

I would like to ask if you could present this character reference to the Standards (Determination) Sub Committee which is going to discuss a complaint of failure to observe the Local Code of Conduct against Cllr Paul Sohal.

I am Brian G L Hewitt and live at I was member of Slough Unitary Authority from May 2004 to May 2010, representing Haymill ward as a Liberal Councillor. During this time I was Chair of BILLD Group, chair of Planning Committee & chair of Employment Committee.

I have known Cllr Paul Sohal since 1992 when we use to work at I C I Paints, Slough in the Resins department's Control Laboratory. As we were of the similar political views, I helped him during his county council election in May 1993 and again in May 1997. He left the Labour Party in October 1998 and set up an Independent Group in Wexham along with his other friends. I supported this Independent Group and helped them in the election campaigns during the local council elections. I was so impressed by his political campaigning skills and admire him that he helped others to get elected as Independent Councillors from Wexham Lea ward.

Having left the Labour Party in 1999, I joined the Liberal Party and won election in May 2004. Though I was in a different political party but we still remained in touch with each other. In June 2009 Paul contacted me and asked me for a meeting. When we met he told me that he has been approached by the Local Labour Party and has been asked to re-join. As I had been one of his staunch supporters he wanted to know my views about him going back to his roots. I told him that if you want to re-join the Labour Party I will have no problem, we will still be friends and I will support you, help you wherever I can. He was open, straight forward and honest with me. He did not mention about any deal with the Labour Party or if anything has been offered to him in return for joining the Labour Party. He also told me that he has informed all his friends and supporters of the Wexham Independent Group. I do not think that he has done anything wrong. He did not deceive anybody. During all those years he helped others but never wanted to be a councillor himself. He worked day and night to get others elected as councillors. I do not regard his act as of a TRAITOR. Once he joined the Labour Party, subsequently I was aware that some members of the Wexham Independent Group were bitter with him, calling him all sorts of names and accusing him of betraying them.

As far as I have known him, he is an honest, hard working community activist who is always eager to help others irrespective of their caste, colour or creed. He has always been respectful to others and gets on well with others. He is a responsible mature person who will never indulge in any anti social behaviour. I wish him well in life.

I myself have re-joined the Labour Party in March 2011.

If I could be of any further assistance in this regard please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Graham Lacey Hewitt

Mrs Shabana Kauser
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Democratic & Members Services
Slough Unitary Authority
ST. Martin's Place, Slough

11-02-2012

Dear Mrs Kauser,

I have been asked by Cllr Paul Sohal to confirm an incident that took place on Friday 6 May 2011 at The Centre, Farnham Road, ~~and~~ Slough.

I would like to let the members of the Standards Sub Committee know that I represented Central Ward as a Labour Party Councillor from May 1995 to May 2000. I was vice chair of Education Committee of the newly established Unitary Authority.

I am vice chair of the Slough Labour Party and I was present at the counting of ballot papers of local elections. Shortly after the result of the Upton ward was declared I heard some shouting and when I turned around I saw Mr Balwinder Dhillon arguing with one of our Labour Councillors i.e. Cllr Paul Sohal. I went there to ask Paul what was going on.

Mr Balwinder Dhillon was swearing at Paul Sohal. He seems to be very angry. I heard him saying that "I will see you; I will put you in trouble. I will give evidence against you to the standards". I try to pacify Mr Dhillon but he would not stop. As he was shouting so loudly the security officer who was standing outside came in and took Mr Dhillon away. He was virtually thrown out of the Counting Hall and I did not see him afterwards.

I also confirm that Cllr Paul Sohal has been an active member of the Slough Community for the last 27 years. He has held responsible positions at various levels and has always shown respect and regards for others.

If you require any further clarification or information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mohan Singh Sahota
Vice chair Slough Labour Party
Labour Memorial Hall
Chalvey, Slough

Ms Shabana Kauser
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Democratic & Members Services
Slough Borough Council
Slough

12-02-2012

Dear Ms Shabana Kauser,

I am writing to request you to bring it to the attention of the members of the Standards Sub Committee my written statement in support of Cllr Paul Sohal.

I have known Paul Sohal since 1995 when he was chair of Lea Infant School and I was an elected parent governor and vice chair of the Board of School Governors. Both of us were members of the Labour Party that we left in October 1998 with some other members of Wexham Lea branch. We campaigned together in local elections and helped Tony Haines, David MacIsaac and Latif Khan to get elected as Independent Councillors for Wexham Lea Ward. Paul Sohal was instrumental in organising election campaigns and mobilising voters to vote for the Independent candidates. He is well known, well respected and down to earth person. When he was a county councillor for this area he did so much work for the local community that people were always prepared to listen to him and support him.

In the summer of 2009 he came to see me and told me that some officers of the Labour Party have asked him to rejoin the Labour Party. He wanted all of us to get together and discuss this if we should go back or not. I arranged a meeting at my house where only Tony Haines turned up. Paul Sohal explained how he was asked by our local MP to come back to the Labour party and recently he had a visit from the chair of the party who has persuaded him to rejoin. He also mentioned that if Cllr Latif Khan wishes to rejoin he would be considered to go on the panel of candidates for next year's local council elections, as he is a sitting councillor. There was nothing else said about any deal or offers made by the party. Cllr Tony Haines was reluctant to rejoin, I was in favour of it and we decided to ask other members as well. Paul Sohal offered to contact Cllr Latif Khan who was in Pakistan at that time. Paul and I joined the Labour Party in July 2009. I come to know that some of our friends were very angry with Paul. I am also aware that one of our friends sent an email to Paul Sohal on the New Year's Eve accusing him of betrayal and selling out to the Labour Party.

I would like to make it clear that we were not paid members of Wexham Independent Group. We helped others to get elected as councillors voluntarily. We did not ask for any favours from any of the councillors we supported. We did not stab anybody in the back. We told everyone what was going on, about all the discussions that have been taking place. Paul Sohal never lied to us. He has always been open with us. He is an honest and trustworthy person who has always helped others. I never had any doubts about his integrity. He has always shown high regards and respect for others. He is well behaved, well mannered and sensible person who will never get involved in any anti social activity.

I would also like to bring it to the notice of the Sub Committee members that on Friday 6 May 2011 when we were at the count at The Centre, former Cllr Balwinder Dhillon started an argument with Cllr Paul Sohal. Cllr Dhillon seemed to be upset as the result of Upton ward went into Labour Party's favour. He was accusing Cllr Sohal for interfering in Upton Ward. He said something about David MacIsaac's complaint and threatened him that he will give statement against him to put him into trouble. I can also confirm that as Mr Dhillon was abusive towards Cllr Sohal and shouting loudly, the vice chair of the Slough Labour party intervened and Mr Dhillon was led away from the hall by the security staff.

Rashid Khan