

City of Rockingham
Complaint Register – Register of Minor Breaches

Date sent	TRIM Number	Whom the complaint is made about	Person making the complaint	Complaint Numbers	Nature of Complaint	Actions taken
6 July 2020	D20/116603	Cr Rae Cottam	Cr Hayley Edwards	SP084 of 2020	Complaint Regulation 7 - Securing personal advantage or disadvantaging others Re – Social Media Comment 11/06/2020	<p>CEO wrote to Local Government Standards Panel lodging complaint 6 July 2020 (D20/116603).</p> <p>Advice received 16/12/2020 LGSP – Breach found.</p> <p>9 February 2021 LGSP ordered the following: (extract only refer to CRM 13402/2021 for full order) –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councillor Rae Cottam, a councillor for the City of Rockingham publicly apologise, as specified in paragraph 2, or failing compliance with paragraph 2, then paragraph 3 below shall apply. 2. At the ordinary council meeting first occurring after the expiration of 28 days from the date of service of this Order on her, Councillor Cottam shall: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. attend the relevant ordinary council meeting; b. ask the presiding person for his or her permission to address the meeting to make a public apology to the public; c. make the apology immediately after Public Question Time or during the Announcements part of the meeting, or at any other time when the meeting is open to the public, as the presiding person thinks fit; and d. address the Council and public as follows, without saying any introductory words before the address, and without making any comments or statement after the address:

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6 July 2020	D20/116603	Cr Rae Cottam	Cr Hayley Edwards	SP084 of 2020 (cont.)		<p><i>"I advise this meeting that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. A complaint was made to the Local Government Standards Panel, in which it was alleged that I contravened the Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007 (WA) when I used derogatory language to comment on the Facebook post of a local community member.</i> <i>ii. The Panel found that I breached regulation 7(1)(b) of the said Regulations and that my conduct was in breach of the City's Code of Conduct and deserving of a penalty.</i> <i>iii. I accept that I should not have engaged in the relevant conduct.</i> <i>iv. I now apologise to the public and my fellow Councillors."</i> <p>3. If Councillor Cottam fails to, or is unable to, comply with the requirements of paragraph 2 above THEN, within the next 28 days following the ordinary council meeting referred to in paragraph 2 above, the Chief Executive Officer shall arrange for the following notice of public apology to be published in no less than 10 point print or font:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. on the Facebook Page of the City of Rockingham; b. on an appropriate page of the website of the City Rockingham; and c. be published in every City of Rockingham public or community newsletter (whether in electronic or print copy) (if any):

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6 July 2020	D20/116603	Cr Rae Cottam	Cr Hayley Edwards	SP084 of 2020 (cont.)		<p>PUBLIC APOLOGY BY COUNCILLOR RAE COTTAM</p> <p><i>A complaint was made to the Local Government Standards Panel, in which it was alleged that I contravened the Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007 (WA) when I used derogatory language to comment on the Facebook post of a local community member. The Panel found that I breached regulation 7(1)(b) of the said Regulations and that my conduct was in breach of the City's Code of Conduct and deserving of a penalty. I accept that I should not have engaged in the relevant conduct. I now apologise to the public and my fellow Councillors.</i></p> <p>Cr Cottam made the following address at the 23 March 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting: <i>"I would like to let everybody know that: A complaint was made to the Local Government Standards Panel, in which it was alleged that I contravened the Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007 and when I used derogatory language to comment on the Facebook post of a local community member. The Panel found that I breached regulation 7(1)(b) to the said Regulations and that my conduct was in breach of the City's Code of Conduct and deserving a penalty. I accept that I should not have engaged in that relevant conduct, and I now apologise to the public, the gallery and my fellow Councillors."</i></p>

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6 July 2020	D20/116603	Cr Rae Cottam	Cr Hayley Edwards	SP084 of 2020 <i>(cont.)</i>		<p>The address is recorded in the 23 March 2021 City of Rockingham Council Minutes and can be listened to via the audio recording of that meeting. The minutes and recording are available on the City's website:</p> <p>https://rockingham.wa.gov.au/meetingrecordings</p>