

Part 4 – Standing Orders relating to Staff

STANDING ORDERS RELATING TO STAFF

1. In this Standing Order:

‘the 1989 Act’ means the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;

‘the 2000 Act’ means the Local Government Act 2000;

‘disciplinary action’ has the same meaning as the Local Authorities (Standing Order) (England) Regulations 2001;

‘Cabinet’ and ‘Leader’ have the same meaning as ‘Executive’ and ‘Executive Leader’ have in Part IA of the 2000 Act;

‘member of staff’ means a person appointed to or holding a paid office or employment under the authority; and

‘proper officer’ means an officer appointed by the authority for the purposes of the provisions of this part.

2. Subject to paragraphs 3 and 7, the function of appointment and dismissal of, and taking disciplinary action against a member of staff of the authority, must be discharged on behalf of the authority by the officer designated under section 4(1) of the 1989 Act (designation and report of Head of Paid Service) as the Head of the authority’s Paid Service or by an officer nominated by him.
3. Paragraph 2 shall not apply to the appointment or dismissal of, or disciplinary action against :
- (a) the officer designated as the Head of the authority’s Paid Service;
 - (b) a statutory chief officer within the meaning of section 2(6) of the 1989 Act (politically restricted posts);
 - (c) a non-statutory chief officer within the meaning of section 2(7) of the 1989 Act;
 - (d) a deputy chief officer within the meaning of section 2(8) of the 1989 Act; or
 - (e) a person appointed in pursuance of section 9 of the 1989 Act (assistants for political groups).
4. (1) Where a committee, sub-committee or officer is discharging, on behalf of the authority, the function of the appointment or dismissal of an officer designated as the Head of the authority’s Paid Service, the authority must approve that appointment before an offer of appointment is made to him, or as the case may be, must approve that dismissal before notice of dismissal is given to him.
- (2) Where a committee or a sub-committee of the authority is discharging, on behalf of the authority, the function of the appointment or dismissal of any officer referred to in sub-paragraphs (a), (b), (c) or (d) of paragraph 3, at

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least one member of the Cabinet must be a member of that committee or sub-committee.

5. (1) In this paragraph, 'appointor' means, in relation to the appointment of a person as an officer of the authority, the authority, or where a committee, sub-committee or officer is discharging the function of appointment on behalf of the authority, that committee, sub-committee or officer, as the case may be.
 - (2) An offer of an appointment as an officer referred to in sub-paragraphs (a), (b), (c) or (d) of paragraph 3 must not be made by the appointor until:
 - (a) the appointor has notified the proper officer of the name of the person to whom the appointor wishes to make the offer and any other particulars which the appointor considers are relevant to the appointment.
 - (b) the proper officer has notified every member of the Cabinet of the authority of:
 - (i) the name of the person to whom the appointor wishes to make the offer;
 - (ii) any other particulars relevant to the appointment which the appointor has notified to the Proper Officer; and
 - (iii) the period within which any objection to the making of the offer is to be made by the Leader of the Council on behalf of the Cabinet to the Proper Officer; and
 - (c) either:
 - (i) the Leader has, within the period specified in the notice under sub-paragraph (b)(iii), notified the appointor that neither he nor any other member of the Cabinet has any objection to the making of the offer;
 - (ii) the proper officer has notified the appointor that no objection was received by him within that period from the Leader; or
 - (iii) the appointor is satisfied that any objection received from the Leader within that period is not material or is not well-founded.
6. (1) In this paragraph, 'dismissor' means, in relation to the dismissal of an officer of the authority, the authority, or where a committee, sub-committee or another officer is discharging the function of dismissal on behalf of the Authority, that committee, sub-committee or other officer as the case may be.
- (2) Notice of the dismissal of an officer referred to in sub-paragraphs (a), (b), (c) or (d) of paragraph 3 must not be given by the dismissor until:

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- (a) the dismissor has notified the Proper Officer of the name of the person who the dismissor wishes to dismiss and any other particulars which the dismissor considers are relevant to the dismissal;
 - (b) the Proper Officer has notified every member of the Cabinet of the authority of:
 - (i) the name of the person who the dismissor wishes to dismiss;
 - (ii) any other particulars relevant to the dismissal which the dismissor has notified to the Proper Officer; and
 - (iii) the period within which any objection to the dismissal is to be made by the Leader on behalf of the Cabinet to the Proper Officer; and
 - (c) either:
 - (i) the Leader has, within the period specified in the notice under sub-paragraph b(iii), notified the dismissor that neither he nor any other member of the Cabinet has any objection to the dismissal;
 - (ii) the Proper Officer has notified the dismissor that no objection was received by him within that period from the Leader; or
 - (iii) the dismissor is satisfied that any objection received from the Leader within that period is not material or is not well-founded.
7. Nothing in paragraph 2 shall prevent a person from serving as a member of any committee or sub-committee established by the authority to consider an appeal by:
- (a) another person against any decision relating to the appointment of that other person as a member of staff of the authority; or
 - (b) a member of staff of the authority against any decision relating to the dismissal of, or taking disciplinary action against, that member of staff.

Standing Orders Relating to Disciplinary Action

8. In paragraph 9, 'Chief Finance Officer', 'disciplinary action', 'Head of the authority's Paid Service' and 'Monitoring Officer', have the same meaning as in Regulation 2 of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 and 'designated independent person' has the same meaning as in Regulation 7 of those Regulations.
9. No disciplinary action in respect of the Head of the authority's Paid Service, its Monitoring Officer or its Chief Finance Officer, except action described in paragraph 10, may be taken by the authority, or by a committee, sub-committee, a joint committee on which the authority is represented or any other person acting on behalf of the authority, other than in accordance with a recommendation in a report made by a designated independent person under Regulation 7 of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (investigation of alleged misconduct).

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10. The action mentioned in paragraph 9 is suspension of the officer for the purpose of investigating the alleged misconduct occasioning the action; and any such suspension must be on full pay and terminate no later than the expiry of 2 months beginning on the day on which the suspension takes effect.