

Members' Conduct and Discipline

Members and Visitors will conduct themselves properly at meetings and will adhere to the reasonable requests and instructions of the Chairman of the meeting. Members wishing to speak at meetings should raise their hands to attract the attention of the Chairman of the meeting who shall have full discretion on control and conduct of the meeting.

Anyone who persistently interrupts, wilfully disrupts or otherwise disturbs the smooth running of the meeting may be asked by the Chairman of the meeting to leave and shall do so promptly and without further discussion.

Any complaint regarding the unreasonable conduct of any member with respect to the group should initially be addressed in writing to the Group Chairman or Group Secretary who will bring it to the attention of the committee. Alternatively the Committee may raise a complaint on its own initiative. If the Committee after due consideration find that there is a justifiable complaint they may at their sole discretion:

- 1) Informally warn the member via the Chairman
- 2) Formally warn the Member by letter.
- 3) Convene a disciplinary hearing before an independent panel of members which may recommend a course of action to be followed by the Committee which can include expulsion or suspension from the Group. Members expelled from the Group will not be entitled to any refund of membership fees. No member may be expelled other than on the recommendation of a Disciplinary Hearing.

The Disciplinary Panel

The Disciplinary Panel will be selected from amongst the Members by the Committee and shall consist of a Panel of 6 Members of at least 3 years standing. Committee members may not sit on the Disciplinary Panel .

Three Panel members will sit at each hearing which will be convened giving at least 3 weeks notice to all concerned parties. At each Hearing the Panel Members present will elect a Chairman who will speak on behalf of the Panel at the Hearing.

The Complainant(s), the Offending Member and a Committee representative will be entitled to make representations to the hearing and if considered appropriate by the Hearing Chairman bring witnesses or other supporting evidence. Full details of the Complaint and Offending behaviour will be sent to the Offending Member with the notice of the hearing.

The panel will give their judgement and recommendations with reasons in writing to both Offending Member and the Committee.

The Committee will have sole discretion as to whether to enact the recommendations of the Disciplinary Hearing.