

**STANDARDS, AUDIT AND SCRUTINY – ETHICAL GOVERNANCE
RESPONSIBILITIES**

Restrictions on political activities by certain local government staff were introduced under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The Act provided for the appointment of an independent adjudicator to grant dispensations for staff to engage in certain political activities.

Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 the role of independent adjudicator is abolished and the duties transferred to local authority Standards Committees.

The duties introduced by the 2007 Act are:-

- To consider applications from employees for exemption from political restriction in respect of their posts.
- Where appropriate, to issue directions requiring a local authority to include a post in a list of politically restricted posts it maintains.
- To give general advice, following consultation with appropriate parties, on the application of criteria for designation of a politically restricted post.

The relevant Sections of the 2007 Act are in force. When/if guidance and directions are issued we will report further to the Committee.