

**STATEMENT OF COUNCILLOR EDWARD TURNER**

Date of Interview: 19 April 2011  
Place of Interview: Oxford City Council Offices  
Interviewed: Councillor Edward Turner  
Interviewer: Tim O’Gara, Solicitor (“The Investigator”)

I, Councillor Edward Turner, of 2 Orchard Court, Rose Hill, Oxford, OX4 4HJ state as follows

1. This statement is based upon my interview with the Investigator on 19 April 2011.  
The information contained in this statement supplements that contained in my application form.
2. I confirm that I have been advised of the investigation procedure and that I was content to be interviewed alone in person by the Investigator at Oxford City Council offices on 19 April 2011.
3. I have been a member of Oxford City Council for 9 years and since 2008 I have been the Deputy Leader of the Council. I have not been a councillor anywhere else. (I have known Councillor Young for approximately 5 years in her capacity as a councillor. I have only known her in that capacity).
4. The complaint that I have made in respect of Councillor Young is made in my personal capacity, however my concerns are echoed by other members of my Group, who are frustrated by the use of Council time and resources to further individual personal issues. This was not the first time that I felt that Councillor Young had used her position to ask questions relating to personal interests. In the past, I

have been prepared to overlook this, but on this occasion, it was clear where her questions were coming from. She went too far on this occasion.

5. I am objecting in the strongest of terms to the questions which were asked as they were clearly related to her personal concerns about the plans for the tourist industry in Oxfordshire, and in particular those aspects which related to her work as a tour guide in Oxford.
6. During the Full Council meeting on 21 February 2011, whilst Councillor Young was asking supplementary question, there were several other members who were advising her that she should be declaring an interest. She ignored this advice and continued with a series of supplementary questions relating to Tour Guides, the Tourist Information Centre and Destination Management.
7. I understand that at the Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee on 22 February 2011, Councillor Young did declare an interest when the Report relating to Destination Management was considered. I do not see that there is any difference between the Full Council meeting on 21 February 2011 and the Scrutiny Committee the following day.
8. I of course have no objection to Councillor Young raising issues of concern to her as a tour guide with council officers, but she should do so using forums which are open to the general public, and not those which are exclusively open to councillors.
9. I have attended training on the Code of Conduct. I understand the principles of good conduct and the standards expected of councillors. Councillor Young's behaviour to me on 21 February 2011 fell below the relevant standards.

10. I confirm that this statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed:



Date:

27/6/11

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