

NOTICE OF DECISION

TRIBUNAL REFERENCE NUMBER: APW/001/2019-020/CT

REFERENCE ABOUT ALLEGED BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

RESPONDENT: Councillor Aaron Shotton

RELEVANT AUTHORITY: Flintshire County Council

1. A Case Tribunal convened by the President of the Adjudication Panel for Wales has considered a reference in respect of the above Respondent.
2. At a hearing on 27, 28 and 29 January 2020 at Llandudno Magistrates Court, the Case Tribunal found by unanimous decision that Councillor Shotton failed to comply with the Authority's Code of Conduct as follows:-
 - 2.1 The Case Tribunal found that Cllr Shotton breached Paragraphs 6(1)(a) and 7(a) of the Code of Conduct by, in his official capacity, using or attempting to use his position improperly to confer on or secure for himself or his PA an advantage or create or avoid for himself or his PA a disadvantage by providing an opportunity to view questions before her interview for the permanent role of PA.
 - 2.2 The Case Tribunal found that Cllr Shotton breached Paragraph 6(1)(a) of the Code of Conduct by sending and/or encouraging his PA to send inappropriate messages, to include messages of a sexual nature, during office hours.
3. The Case Tribunal decided by unanimous decision that Councillor Shotton should be suspended from acting as a member of Flintshire County Council for a period of three (3) months or, if shorter, the remainder of his term of office with effect from the date of this notice.
4. The Respondent has the right to seek the leave of the High Court to appeal the above decision.
5. The Authority and its Standards Committee are notified accordingly. The full decision report will be published on the APW website in due course.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'en Jones', written over a horizontal line.

Date 29 January 2020

Tribunal Judge Jones
Chairperson of the Case Tribunal

Ms Susan Hurds
Panel Member

Mr Tom Mitchell
Panel Member