

Investigations: Tackling complex cases

Questions for case example 2

1. What are the key elements of your investigation plan? Where will you seek evidence for the allegations that Councillor Patel was targeted during meetings? Identify the risks in this investigation and how you might manage them.
2. What will you seek to establish through your interviews with witnesses? A number of witnesses tell you that Councillor Patel was the subject of derogatory or critical comments which occurred more often than not at Council meetings – is this sufficient for your needs? Can you find out more? What further questions might you ask?
3. Make up four different witness accounts of what occurred at a Council meeting on 15 May 2007 when Councillor Patel alleged that Councillors Jake and Jones said he was raising spurious and irrelevant concerns and had little or nothing to contribute to the debate. One member of your group to decide from which four people you are seeking witness statements and why. When you have the four accounts, consider how you would assess the evidence and the weight you would give to them. What do you take into account when coming to a conclusion? What other evidence might you seek to corroborate any of the witness accounts.
4. Can you establish who disclosed information to the local paper?
5. How do you establish whether Councillor Patel has been a victim of discrimination?