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Composition of standards committees

The following statistics were compiled from data submitted on quarterly return forms, covering the period 8 May to 30 September 2008.

Size of standards committees	Number of members (Q1)	Number of members (Q 2)
Largest standards committee	18	20
Smallest standards committee	3	3
Average size of a standards committee	9	10
Average number of independent members	3	4
Average number of parish representatives (for authorities with parishes)	3	3

Independent members	Number (Q1)	Number (Q2)
Most independent members	9	9
Least independent members	1	1
Average number of independent members	3	4

Parish representatives	Number (Q1)	Number (Q2)
Returns from authorities with parishes	244	244
Most parishes in an authority	189	189
Fewest parishes in an authority	1	1
Average number of parishes per authority	33	33
Average number of parish representatives on standards committees	3	3
Most parish representatives	7	8
Fewest parish representatives	1	1

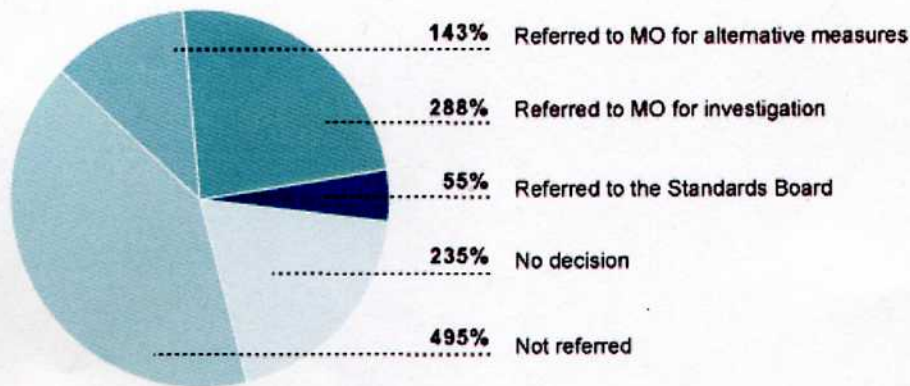
- 3 authorities reported that they do not have an independent chair
- 2 authorities reported that their standards committee is made up entirely of independent members
- All authorities with parishes have parish representation on their standards committee

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Referral decisions

The following statistics were compiled from data submitted on quarterly return forms, covering the period 8 May to 30 September 2008.

A decision about whether to refer had not been made on 235 (19%) of cases received so far. The breakdown of decisions for the other 982 cases is as follows:



There was one request for a review of a referral decision during the quarter.

Timeliness of decisions

The guidance indicates that it should take, on average, 20 working days from receipt of a complaint to a referral decision being made.

- So far, the average length of time a case takes from date of receipt to referral decision is 20 working days.
- However, 282 cases took longer than 20 days for a referral decision to be made (23%)

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Quarterly return submission statistics

The following statistics were compiled from data submitted on quarterly return forms, covering the period 8 May to 30 September 2008.

We are pleased to report that 100% of authorities accessed the quarterly return form and submitted information to us for Quarter 2. Returns for 97% of authorities were completed without any errors.

This is an impressive return rate, considering that it is only the second round of quarterly returns, using a brand new system. It means that we have a good quality set of data to analyse and to help us begin to form a picture of how local case handling is bedding in. Thank you to all monitoring officers who submitted returns.

Quarterly return submission statistics	Number	%	Number	%
Number of authorities a return was requested from	473	N/A	473	N/A
Number of returns submitted	464	98%	473	100%
Returns that were complete and did not contain any errors	427	90%	458	97%

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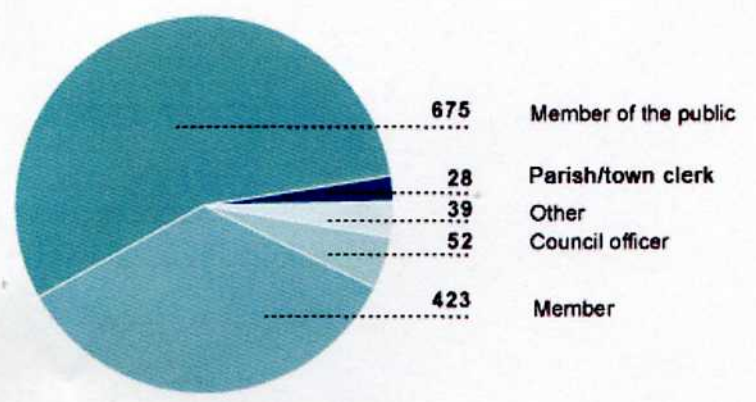
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Source of complaint

The following statistics were compiled from data submitted on quarterly return forms, covering the period 8 May to 30 September 2008.

A decision about whether to refer had not been made on 235 (19%) of cases received so far. The breakdown of decisions for the other 982 cases is as follows:



The split of cases by authority type is as follows:

Authority types	Number of cases	Average number of cases per authority
County Council	45	1.3
District Council	789	3.3
London Borough	52	1.6
Metropolitan Council	123	3.6
Unitary	197	4.2

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