

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 30, 2017 2:00 PM  
**To:** Nick Brooks  
**Subject:** Re: Councillor Bell complaint

Dear Mr Brooks,

Thank you for your email. I indicated in my letter of 10 May that I intended finalising the report after 24 May and, as there was no response from either you or Councillor Bell, I have sent the report on to the Monitoring Officer. I will copy your email and this reply to him.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Dudfield

**From:** Nick Brooks  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 30, 2017 1:28 PM  
**To:** Mike Dudfield  
**Subject:** Councillor Bell complaint

Dear Mr Dudfield,

Unfortunately, your letter, dated 10<sup>th</sup> May, has only just arrived on my desk, apparently having been misfiled while I was away on holiday. So, I am sorry not to have responded to you sooner.

I have read through the document and believe it is a reasonably fair assessment of the case. I can see how you arrive at your conclusions, but do think there is a hair's breadth between some of the decisions as to what does and does not constitute bullying and disrepute. I obviously lie on one side of that line and your decision on the other. I would ask you to consider how such behaviour in the council meeting could not fail to intimidate and change other people's behaviours during a debate if they are faced with the type of outburst that Mr Bell exhibited. The councillors may have become used to this behaviour and their threshold for being intimidated has risen, but please consider a more timid member of the public than me facing such an outburst. If you believe that such behaviour would not affect anybody then it is not bullying, but if you conclude that people could be affected by such intimidating behaviour then it has to be a form of bullying. I have no doubt that many people would be affected.

I also can't agree that shouting a raging "Fucking Hell" in the middle of a council debate does not bring the office into disrepute. Dennis Skinner has fallen foul of disrepute charges in the House of Commons on many occasions for far less demonstrative actions. If the council debate had been televised, I'm sure there would be a majority of the electorate that would agree with the disrepute charge. Surely, the fact that the audience was in a closed room, and limited in number, should not affect that outcome.

However, my reason for making this complaint is to ensure that the behaviours shown by Mr Bell in the future are of a standard expected of their office. That our evidence has been accepted, one of the counts upheld and a summary that suggests to the council that it should look at behavioural training will, I am sure, help to ensure that this type of behaviour is eliminated.

Thank you for your careful consideration and judgement in this matter.

Best regards

Nick Brooks

**Nick Brooks**  
General Manager

**WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre**  
Fish Lane, Burscough, Lancashire L40 0TA