

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME



Wealden

District Council

Council Meeting: 9th December, 1998

PUBLIC QUESTION NUMBER: 33/98

Questioner: Mrs A. Harris

Question to the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee:

Subject: Distribution of mail to Councillors

It is a criminal offence to prevent correspondence sent via Royal Mail from reaching the addressee. When Wealden accepts mail in trust (addressed personally to elected Councillors and containing factual information) into their internal mail system, does this ensure it is safely delivered without interference to the contents, and would any interference constitute malfeasance?

Response from Councillor Mrs V J Chidson, Chairman Policy & Resources Committee

Members of the public occasionally ask that Wealden's internal procedures are used to send mail to councillors as an alternative to posting direct through the Royal Mail. If accepted, the manner in which the Council handles this mail is at the Council's discretion depending on such matters as timing, bulk and cost of any onward transmission. Handling the mail using these procedures to assist the public at their request cannot be construed as interference or comprise any sort of offence.

