**Template for complaint about local councillor to local council**

**[Date]**

FAO the complaints team at the **[name of]** council.

**[State who you are, if you are submitting the complaint independently or on behalf of an organisation or another individual.]** **[We/I]** wish to submit a complaint regarding comments made by **[name of]** Councillor of **[name of]** Council **[state where and when the comment was made** **and attach or include link to the source].**

**[Name of Councillor]**stated: *“direct quote of comments”*

We were alarmed to see these comments**[outline how and why the comments are offensive and how they may lead to discrimination against Gypsies and/or Travellers]**

**[Add any context which might be useful such as site provision, hate crime or health inequalities. This information can be found on the Friends Families and Travellers website]**

As I am sure you are aware, **[Travellers/Gypsies, delete as appropriate]** are racial groups as defined in s9 Equality Act 2010. They are therefore protected from harassment (s26). Section 26(1) Equality Act 2010 provides that a person, A, harasses another, B, if A engages in unwanted conduct related to a relevant protected characteristic and the conduct has the purpose or effect of violating B's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for B. Section 29 (6) of the Equality Act states the following; A person must not, in the exercise of a public function that is not a provision of a service to the public or a section of the public, do anything that constitutes discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

The comments made by **[XXX]** may amount to harassment prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.

The Councillor also has duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) set out in section 149 Equality Act. In the exercise of all its functions, it has a duty to have 'due regard' to three statutory equality needs to:

* eliminate discrimination and harassment;
* advance equality of opportunity between members of protected groups and others; and
* foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not.

Research from the Equality and Human Rights Commission has shown that Gypsy and Traveller communities in Britain experience wide-ranging inequalities. In addition, racism towards Gypsies and Travellers is still common and seen as justified.

We consider that the comments made by **[XXX]** do not comply with the duty to foster good relations between different groups.

We would therefore ask you to investigate this matter as we feel these comments constitute a breach of the PSED and the Equality Act, in light of the important role Councillors play in influencing opinion on Gypsies and Travellers.

Please can you also confirm if **[XXX]** has been trained in the legal duties of the Equality Act 2010 and the PSED?

Best wishes

**Name**

Job title (if relevant)

Organisation (if relevant)

Contact details