

PART 4

A. Standards Committee

Standards Committee

1.1 The GMCA will establish a Standards Committee.

1.2 Composition

(a) **Membership.**

The Standards Committee will be composed of:

- Five members of the GMCA (none of whom shall be the Chair); and
- One person appointed by the GMCA who is not a Member or officer of the GMCA or an elected member or officer of any of the Constituent Councils (Co-opted Independent Member).

(b) **Independent Member.**

The Co-opted Independent Member will not be entitled to vote at meetings.

(c) **Chairing the Committee.**

The GMCA will appoint the Co-opted Independent Member as Chair of the Committee. In the absence of the appointed Chair, the Committee will be chaired as determined by the Committee.

(d) **Quorum.**

The quorum for the Standards Committee shall be three (and in relation to the matters referred to in paragraph 4.3 (f) and (g) of whom at least one must be the Co-opted Independent Member), provided that the Co-opted Independent Member is not prevented or restricted from participating by virtue of the GMCA's Code of Conduct.

(e) **Questions at Meetings of the GMCA.**

The Committee will appoint one of its elected Members for the purpose of answering questions at meetings of the GMCA on the discharge of the Committee's functions.

1.3 Role and Function

The GMCA has delegated to the Standards Committee the following powers to deal with matters of conduct and ethical standards, and the GMCA's Standards Committee has the following role and functions:

- (a) to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by GMCA Members;
- (b) to assist GMCA Members to observe the GMCA's Code of Conduct for Members;
- (c) to advise the GMCA on the adoption, revision or replacement of the GMCA's Code of Conduct for Members and the GMCA's Arrangements for Dealing with Complaints that GMCA Members have failed to comply with the GMCA's Code of Conduct for Members ("the GMCA's Arrangements");
- (d) to monitor the operation of the GMCA's Code of Conduct for Members and the GMCA's Arrangements;
- (e) to advise, train or arrange to train GMCA Members to observe the GMCA's Code of Conduct for Members;
- (f) to determine, or to delegate to a Standards (Hearings) Sub-Committee to determine, in accordance with the GMCA's Arrangements whether a GMCA Member has failed to comply with the GMCA's Code of Conduct for Members and, if so, to determine, or to delegate to a Standards (Hearings) Sub-Committee to determine, what action (if any) to take in respect of the GMCA Member, such actions to include –
 - publication of the findings of the GMCA's Standards (Hearings) Sub-Committee in respect of the Subject Member's conduct;
 - reporting the findings of the GMCA's Standards (Hearings) Sub-Committee to the GMCA for information;
 - recommendation to the GMCA that the Subject Member should be censured;
 - instructing the GMCA's Monitoring Officer to arrange training for the Subject Member;
 - recommendation to the GMCA that the Subject Member should be removed from all appointments to which the Subject Member has been appointed or nominated by the GMCA;
 - placing such restrictions on the Subject Member's access to staff, buildings or parts of buildings provided for the use of the GMCA as may be reasonable in the circumstances.
- (g) to determine appeals against the GMCA Monitoring Officer's decision on the grant of dispensations.

1.4 **Additional Roles of Standards Committee**

- (a) to overview the GMCA's whistle blowing policy;

- (b) to consider the GMCA's Code of Corporate Governance and the Annual Governance Statement.

1.5 **Delegation**

The Standards Committee may appoint one or more sub-committees for the purpose of discharging any of the Committee's functions. Any such sub-committee shall be chaired as determined by the Committee and shall have a quorum of three.