

Community Boards fall under Ombudsmen jurisdiction if decision(s) made other than by Committee as a whole

Legislation	Ombudsmen Act 1975
Agency	Local Community Board
Ombudsman	Sir Brian Elwood
Case number(s)	C5561
Date	1999

Jurisdiction—Community Board—decisions of full Board outside jurisdiction—scope of jurisdiction limited to acts or decisions of committees, subcommittees, officers, employees or members of Board—Ombudsmen Act 1975, s 13(1) and (2)

A complaint was received which raised the question of the Ombudsmen's jurisdiction to investigate decisions made by Community Boards.

Community Boards are specified in Part III of the First Schedule to the *Ombudsmen Act 1975*. Accordingly, an Ombudsman may investigate any decision, recommendation, act or omission, made by a committee (other than a committee of the whole), or subcommittee, or by an officer, employee, or member of a Community Board. However, decisions taken by the Board as a whole cannot of themselves be investigated by virtue of the provisions of sections 13(1) and (2) of the *Ombudsmen Act*.

The complainants were advised of the jurisdictional limitation, but invited to submit a complaint if they believed the decision about which they were concerned had been based on recommendations or reports by a committee, officer, employee or member of the Board which they considered were incomplete or misleading. As no further correspondence was received an investigation did not proceed.

This case note is published under the authority of the [Ombudsmen Rules 1989](#). It sets out an Ombudsman's view on the facts of a particular case. It should not be taken as establishing any legal precedent that would bind an Ombudsman in future.