

Complaints Procedure

1 Our Aim

WhyWaitWexford is committed to providing a quality service and working in an open and accountable way that builds trust and respect. One of the ways in which we can continue to improve our service is by listening and responding to the views of our clients and stakeholders, and in particular by responding positively to complaints, and by putting mistakes right.

Therefore, we aim to ensure that:

- Making a compliment or complaint is as easy as possible
- We welcome compliments, feedback and suggestions
- We treat a complaint as a clear expression of dissatisfaction with our service which calls for an immediate response
- We deal with it promptly, politely and, when appropriate, confidentially
- We respond in the right way - for example, with an explanation, or an apology where we have got things wrong, or information on any action taken etc.
- We learn from complaints, use them to improve our service, and review annually our complaints policy and procedures

We recognise that many concerns will be raised informally and dealt with quickly.

Our aims are to:

- Resolve informal concerns quickly
- Keep matters low-key

This policy ensures that we welcome compliments and provide guidelines for dealing with complaints from members of the public about our services, facilities & staff

2. Definitions

A compliment is an expression of satisfaction about the standard of service we provide.

A complaint is defined as any expression of dissatisfaction, however, it is expressed. This would include complaints expressed face to face, via a phone call, in writing, via email or any other method. All staff should have sufficient knowledge to be able to identify an “expression of dissatisfaction” even when the word “complain” or “complaint” is not used.

3. Purpose

We are always glad to hear from people who are satisfied with the services we offer. All compliments are recorded & acknowledged.

4. Complaints

The formal complaints procedure is intended to ensure that all complaints are handled fairly, consistently and wherever possible resolved to the complainant's satisfaction.

5. Responsibilities

WhyWaitWexford's responsibility will be to:

- Acknowledge the formal complaint in writing;
- Respond within a stated period of time;
- Deal reasonably and sensitively with the complaint
- Take action where appropriate.

A complainant's responsibility is to:

- Bring their complaint, in writing, to WhyWaitWexford's attention normally within 8 weeks of the issue arising;
- Raise concerns promptly and directly with a member of staff in WhyWaitWexford
- explain the problem as clearly and as fully as possible, including any action taken to date;

- Allow WhyWaitWexford a reasonable time to deal with the matter
- Recognise that some circumstances may be beyond WhyWaitWexford's control.

6. Confidentiality:

Except in exceptional circumstances, every attempt will be made to ensure that both the complainant and WhyWaitWexford maintain confidentiality. However, the circumstances giving rise to the complaint may be such that it may not be possible to maintain confidentiality (with each complaint judged on its own facts). Should this be the case, the situation will be explained to the complainant.

7. Complaints Procedure:

Written records must be made by WhyWaitWexford at each stage of the procedure.

Stage 1

In the first instance, staff member(s) must establish the seriousness of the complaint. An informal approach is appropriate when it can be achieved. But if concerns cannot be satisfactorily resolved informally, then the formal complaints procedure should be followed.

Stage 2

If the complaint cannot be resolved informally, the member of the public should be advised that a formal complaint may be made and the following procedure should be explained to them.

- a) A formal complaint can be made either verbally or in writing. If in writing the attached form should be used. If verbally, a statement should be taken by a member of the Management Team, staff member or a supervisor.
- b) In all cases, the complaint must be passed on to Michael Vince-Jackson.
- c) Michael Vince-Jackson, must acknowledge the complaint in writing within one week of receiving it.
- d) Michael Vince-Jackson will investigate the complaint and establish a conclusion.
- e) The person making the complaint will receive a response based on the investigation within four weeks of the complaint being received. If this is not possible then a letter must be sent explaining why.



SUGGESTION & COMPLAINTS FORM

You may use this form to make a suggestion or to make a complaint about WhyWaitWexford.

We would appreciate it if you could return this form as soon as possible.

Your Name

Address

Telephone

Date of incident

Approximate time of incident

Suggestion / Complaint

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What action would you like to be taken?

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What times are convenient for an appointment to discuss this?

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