

Complaints Policy & Procedure

This policy and procedure is subject to The Equality Act 2010 which recognises the following categories of individual as Protected Characteristics: Age, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion and Belief, Sex (gender), Sexual orientation, Disability.

1. Policy

Strohacker Design School places a significant emphasis on customer feedback and views the complaints process as a valuable tool to drive improvements in the quality of our services. The policy of Strohacker Design School is to respond to all suggestions, whether positive or negative, in a prompt and courteous manner.

All complaints will be treated seriously.

2. Minimum Expectations

2.1 All complaints will be acknowledged within two working days of receipt

2.2 We will try to resolve complaints to the satisfaction of all parties within ten working days of receipt.

3. Protocol for Responding to Complaints

3.1 Formal acknowledgement of the complaint, with, where relevant, a copy of the Complaints Policy and Procedures, will be confirmed within two working days, of receiving the complaint. This communication will inform the complainant that they will receive a full response within 10 working days.

3.2 The administrator responsible for complaints will copy the complaint to the Course Director and to appropriate personnel. All complaints will be treated as confidential and will be handled with sensitivity by the investigating manager.

3.3 Every communication, either from the complainant or from SDS, will be copied to the Course Director in electronic format, where possible. Notes will be kept of meetings and telephone calls and will also be copied to the Course Director for filing with the original complaint.

3.4 The Senior Manager responsible for the area of business about which a complaint has been made will ensure that a full response to the complaint is provided within 7 working days wherever possible. When this is not possible, explanation will be given to the complainant within ten working days, this will include a proposed schedule for response.

3.5 The final response should include an explanation to the complainant of how to take their complaint further, if necessary.

3.6 On receipt of a complaint made to the Course Director, this will ensure that a full investigation of the complaint takes place, including how it has been handled. An acknowledgement will be confirmed within two working days and a full response will be given within 10 working days.

4. Responsibilities

4.1 The manager responsible for the area of business about which a complaint has been made is responsible for investigating and responding to the complainant.

4.2 The manager who receives the complaint is responsible for copying information on the response to the complaint and the Course Director

4.3 Course Director will be responsible for monitoring the timely and effective implementation of the complaints policy and procedure.

4.4 Course Director will be responsible for recording an overview of the nature and number of complaints in his report.

5. Protocol for Complainants

5.1 Learners, Employers, members of the public and members of staff are able to complain through a number of avenues, including: via e-mail; a telephone call direct to a member of SDS staff; the SDS info e-mail service or by contacting a member of the Management Team.

5.2 If the complainant needs help in making a complaint, this can be provided through the SDS Administration Team.

5.3 If the complainant remains dissatisfied following the response from the relevant manager, they are able to take it further by contacting the Course Director.

5.4 If the complainant has exhausted the SDS complaints policy and is still not satisfied, they may wish to write to the relevant agency about the handling of the complaint, details of which will be provided on request.

6. Receipt of Complaints

6.1 If a complaint is received by post or given to reception it will be forwarded on the same day that it is received to the Course Director.

6.2 If a complaint is received directly by a Manager, copies of all correspondence and notes of telephone calls or meetings will be forwarded to the Course Director.

Appendix 1

Definition of Complaint

A complaint is defined as the formal expression of dissatisfaction by anyone who uses or is affected by any of the organisation's services and facilities.

An informal complaint is one that is received by a member of staff and is resolved with the agreement of the complainant at the time at a local level.

A formal complaint is one that cannot be resolved immediately at the local level and/or is directed to the Course Director or any member of the Strohacker Design School team (usually in writing).

A vexatious complaint is one which is primarily intended to annoy or distress other parties in a malicious way. Or is part of a series of complaints by the same complainant where other complaints have been investigated and resolved.

Or a complaint promoted by an employee with the intention of by-passing or subverting the normal organisational procedures.

A high risk complaint is one which involves:

- i) Allegations of corruption against a company employee
- ii) A claim of personal injury
- iii) A claim of dereliction of duty by a company employee
- iv) A claim that a law has been broken
- v) A claim of discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability or age etc