

# INTERNAL PROCEDURE

Quality

## Title: COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

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**EXECUTIVE OWNER:** Corrienne Peasgood  
**VERSION NO:** 9 (2013)  
**DUE DATE FOR REVIEW:** March 2015

**SUMMARY:** College Complaints Procedure for use by students, visitors and other customers.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** If you would like this information in an alternative format, e.g. Easy to Read, large print, Braille or audio tape, or if you would like the procedure explained to you in your language, please contact the Communications & PR Officer on 01603 773 169.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** If you have any queries about this policy or procedure, please contact the named policy holder or the Communications & PR Officer on 01603 773 169.

City College Norwich,  
Ipswich Rd, Norwich,  
Norfolk NR2 2LJ



**CITY  
COLLEGE  
NORWICH**

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# Making a complaint

The College takes all complaints seriously. If you have a complaint, this is what to do:

- 1. Talk to the person concerned or your Head of School – most complaints can be resolved quickly in this way.**

**You can ask your Course Rep or the Students' Union to do this for you.**

- 2. If you are not happy with the response, or do not feel able to discuss the problem, fill in a Complaint Form and hand it in at Main Reception or the Advice Shop.**

**Complaint Forms are available from:**

- The Advice Shop (Room A1)**
- Students' Union office (Room A40a)**
- Blackboard (CCN Students > Your Views)**

**Your Course Rep or the Students Union can provide help in filling in this form.**

What happens next?

**The Executive Support Team will confirm that your complaint has been received (usually within 2 days).**

**You will receive a full written response within 10 working days.**

**If you are not satisfied with the response to your complaint...**

**You can ask the Principal to reinvestigate.**

**If you are still not satisfied, you may have the right to appeal to an outside organisation.**

For more information contact:

**The Executive Office, Room B40, City College Norwich, Ipswich Road, Norwich NR2 2LJ.**

**Tel. (01603) 773615**



**COMPLAINT DETAILS  
CONFIDENTIAL**

I have raised this complaint with my tutor or the department concerned but the problem has not been solved.

Yes/No (Please delete as appropriate)

**Your Details**

Name .....

Address.....

.....

Telephone no .....

Student Reference (if applicable) .....

Course (if applicable) .....

Your School (if applicable) .....

**Please state your complaint:**

Once your complaint has been investigated what would be your preferred outcome?  
We will endeavour to meet any reasonable preferred outcome if the complaint is upheld.

Signature.....

Date.....

**PLEASE READ THE EXPLANATORY NOTES OVERLEAF**

# Complaint Form

## Confidential

### **Making a Complaint**

Problems can usually be resolved by discussing them with the person concerned or your Head of School. If you have not been able to resolve your problem this way:

- complete this form
- put it in an envelope marked **complaint**
- hand it in at main reception - or post it to the:

*The Executive Office, Room B40, City College, Ipswich Road, Norwich NR2 2LJ*

Staff in The Advice Shop or the Student Union can help you fill in the form, if required.

### **What happens to your complaint?**

We want to respond to your complaint as quickly as we can.

- your complaint form will be passed to the Executive Support Team,
- we will write to you, normally, in two working days so that you know your complaint has been received,
- your complaint will be investigated,
- you will be sent a written response within 10 working days,
- if more time is needed to investigate your complaint, you will be sent a letter explaining how long it is likely to take.

*A copy of the full procedure can be obtained from any of the following locations: the main reception in the foyer, The Advice Shop reception in room A1, the Students' Union office (room A40a).*

You can contact the Executive Office in B40 if you want to know what progress has been made.

# **College Complaints Procedure**

**How to make a complaint & what happens to a complaint**

*Version 9*

*Updated: February 2013*



## **Introduction – Why Complaints are Important**

City College Norwich (CCN) takes complaints seriously. It is important to address the issues raised by complaints because they allow us to rectify faults or shortcomings in our provision. We can also respond to complaints in a positive way that allows us to improve the operation and services of the college.

We should also be aware that dissatisfied customers are very likely to discuss their complaint with a range of other people. Complaints which are not addressed to the satisfaction of the complainant may well lead to the reputation of the college being tarnished. In addition we should recognise that people who complain about the college also represent another group of customers; those who are just as dissatisfied but cannot be bothered to take action, or lack the confidence to do so.

Thus, dealing successfully with complaints will improve the provision that we make, improve the reputation of the college and give us knowledge to help us develop in a positive way.

## **The Complaints Procedure**

Any student or other customer of CCN can raise a complaint about any aspect of college services and have their complaint dealt with in a speedy, fair, thorough and confidential manner. Wherever possible a solution will be found that is satisfactory to all concerned and the underlying causes of the problem will be removed so that the problem does not recur.

Help regarding the operation of this procedure is available from the Advice Shop and the Students' Union.

Complaints about assessment processes or outcomes should be made using the Assessment Appeals Procedure, which is available from the Students' Union and the Administration Centre.

If you are studying on a programme of Higher Education you should use the Higher education Academic Appeals Procedure for academic appeals. This Procedure is available on Blackboard under HE@CCN/Regulations and Procedures.

## **Making a Complaint**

### **Step One**

Talk to the person concerned or the Head of School/Department. Your concerns will be taken seriously. Most complaints can be resolved quickly at this point. You can also ask your course representative to raise issues of concern on your behalf.

### **Step Two**

If you are not satisfied with the response or feel unable to discuss the issue directly then this is what to do. Complete a Complaint form and send or take it to the Main Reception. Complaint forms may be obtained from the Students' Union Office (Room A40a), from the Advice Shop in the Norwich Building, or from Blackboard. Advice on completing the form is available from the Advice Shop and the Students' Union. The attached Complaint form has guidance on its completion.

## **Responding to a Complaint**

The Executive Support Team will normally acknowledge receipt of the complaint within two working days.

A copy of the complaint will be sent to the manager responsible for the service to which the complaint relates who will carry out an investigation and make a full response to the Executive Support Team. Normally this will be done within 5 working days to allow a full written reply to be made to you within 10 working days of initial receipt. Otherwise you will be given a reason for the delay.

The Executive Office will maintain a log of complaints.

## **Complaints Direct to the Principal**

Complaints that are sent directly to the Principal by letter will be dealt with as above.

## **Complaints Received by Phone**

Complaints received by phone will be recorded by a member of staff on the attached complaints form and sent to the Executive Support Team.

## **What to do if a Complainant is Dissatisfied with our Response**

If you are not satisfied with the response you receive you may ask the Principal to reinvestigate. Do this by writing to her within 10 working days of receiving our response. After a further investigation you will receive a full reply within 10 working days.

## **Right of Appeal**

If you are not satisfied with the response from the Principal then, depending upon the nature of your complaint you may have a further right of appeal to an external body. If this applies to you the Executive Support Team will inform you and provide contact details for your appeal. This right of appeal could apply if:

- you are taking a further education course, then you could appeal to the Skills Funding Agency;
- you are taking a higher education course validated by the University of East Anglia (UEA) and your complaint relates to an academic judgement or outcome. In this situation you may be entitled to appeal to the UEA and possibly afterwards to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education (see the HE Academic Appeals Procedure);
- your complaint relates to our adherence to the Data Protection Act 1998 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000, then you could appeal to the Office of the Information Commissioner.

## **Complaints Against the Students' Union**

If you are dissatisfied with your dealings with the Students' Union you have the right to have the complaint investigated. This applies whether or not you are a member of the Students' Union. If you are a student who is not a member of the Students' Union and feel that you have been unfairly disadvantaged as a result of opting out of the Union, you also have the right to have your complaint investigated.

A student who has a complaint about the Students' Union should follow the above procedure.

**The complaint will be investigated by the Executive Support Team and the above procedure followed.**

## **Monitoring Complaints – Quality Improvements**

In order to monitor our response to complaints and to ensure that there is effective feedback into the delivery of courses and services, there will be monthly reporting of the pattern and nature of complaints received, including response times.

The reports will be prepared by the Executive Support Team and submitted to the Executive Team for discussion with the Heads of School. The report will not name or identify complainants.

The Principal will also monitor the complaints process by reviewing at least five complaints each year to ensure that they have been dealt with satisfactorily.

## **Annual Complaints Report**

The Executive Support Team, will prepare a summary report of all complaints received. The report will not name or identify complainants or members of staff. This report will go to:

1. The Student Parliament (summary of complaints from students only)
2. The Executive Team
3. The Corporation
4. College Managers

## **Confidentiality**

All complaints will be treated as confidential and details will only be shared with the people who need to know in order to implement this complaints procedure. This will include the appropriate people at the University of East Anglia for UEA validated courses.