

11KBW Complaints Procedure

1. Our aim is to give you a good service at all times. However if you have a complaint you are invited to let us know as soon as possible. It is not necessary to involve solicitors in order to make your complaint but you are free to do so should you wish.

Complaints Made by Telephone

2. You may wish to make a complaint in writing and, if so, please follow the procedure in paragraph 4 below. However, if you would rather speak on the telephone about your complaint then please telephone the individual nominated under the Chambers Complaints Procedure to deal with complaints – Lucy Barbet, Development and Compliance Director, will also deal with complaints about a member of staff. The person you contact will make a note of the details of your complaint and what you would like to have done about it. She will discuss your concerns with you and aim to resolve them. If the matter is resolved she will record the outcome, check that you are satisfied with the outcome and record that you are satisfied. You may also wish to record the outcome of the telephone discussion in writing.

If the complaint is about our Senior Clerk please write to the Heads of Chambers – James Goudie KC or Daniel Stilitz KC.

3. If your complaint is not resolved on the telephone you will be invited to write to us about it so it can be investigated formally.

Complaints Made in Writing

4. Please give the following details:
 - Your name and address;
 - Which member(s) of Chambers you are complaining about;
 - The detail of the complaint; and
 - What you would like done about it.
5. Please address your letter to Lucy Barbet, 11 King's Bench Walk, London, EC4Y 7EQ. We will, where possible, acknowledge receipt of your complaint within two days and provide you with details of how your complaint will be dealt with.
6. Our Head of Chambers, James Goudie KC, will consider the complaint and either deal with it himself or, within 14 days of the receipt of your letter/email, will appoint another senior member of 11KBW to investigate it. If your complaint is against the Head of Chambers, the Senior Clerk will pass the complaint to an alternative senior member of chambers who has no involvement in the complaint.
7. The person appointed to investigate will write to you as soon as possible to let you know he/she has been appointed and that he/she will reply to your complaint within 14 days. If he/she finds later that he/she is not going to be able to reply within 14 days he/she will set a new date for his/her reply and inform you. His/her reply will set out:
 - The nature and scope of his investigation;
 - His/her conclusion on each complaint and the basis for his/her conclusion; and
 - If he/she finds that you are justified in your complaint, his/her proposals for resolving the complaint.

Confidentiality

8. All conversations and documents relating to the complaint will be treated as confidential and will be disclosed only to the extent that is necessary. Disclosure will be to the head of Chambers, members of our management committee and to anyone involved in the complaint and its investigation. Such people will include the barrister member or staff who you have complained about, the head or relevant senior member of the panel and the person who investigates the complaint. The Bar Standards Board is entitled to inspect the documents and seek information about the complaint when discharging its auditing and monitoring functions.

Our Policy

9. As part of our commitment to client care we make a written record of any complaint and retain all documents and correspondence generated by the complaint for a period of six years. Our management committee inspects an anonymised record regularly with a view to improving services.

Complaints to an Alternative complaints body

10. If it has not been possible to settle your complaint using our internal complaints process, you may wish to consider a alternative dispute resolution. Alternative complaints bodies exist such as *Ombudsman Services*, *ProMediate* and *Small Claims Mediation* which are competent to deal with complaints about legal services should both you and the Member of Chambers/staff being complained about wish to use such a scheme.

We do agree to use *ProMediate* - www.promediate.co.uk

Complaints to the Legal Ombudsman

11. If you are unhappy with the outcome of our investigation and you fall within their jurisdiction you may take up your complaint with the Legal Ombudsman, the independent complaints body for complaints about lawyers, at the conclusion of our consideration of your complaint. The Ombudsman is not able to consider your complaint until it has first been investigated by Chambers. Please note the timeframe for referral of complaints to the Ombudsman as set out at paragraph 12 below.
12. Please note that the Legal Ombudsman, the independent complaints body for service complaints about lawyers, has time limits in which a complaint must be raised with them. Ordinarily the Complainant must refer the complaint to the Legal Ombudsman no later than
 - one year from the act/omission; or
 - one year from when the complainant should reasonably have known that there was cause for complaint
 - Within six months of receipt of our final decision on your complaint

13. The Ombudsman can extend the time limit in exceptional circumstances. Chambers must therefore have regard to that timeframe when deciding whether they are able to investigate your complaint. Chambers will not therefore usually deal with complaints that fall outside of the Legal Ombudsman's time limits.
14. The Ombudsman will also only deal with complaints from consumers. This means that only complaints from the barrister's client are within their jurisdiction. Non-clients who are not satisfied with the outcome of the Chambers' investigation should contact the Bar Standards Board rather than the Legal Ombudsman.

The full list of who has a right to complain to the LeO is available on their website:

<http://www.legalombudsman.org.uk/?faq=who-can-use-our-service>

15. It should be noted that it may not always be possible to investigate a complaint brought by a non-client. This is because the ability of Chambers to satisfactorily investigate and resolve such matters is limited and complaints of this nature are often better suited to the disciplinary processes maintained by the Bar Standards Board. Therefore, Chambers will make an initial assessment of the complaint and if they feel that the issues raised cannot be satisfactorily resolved through the Chambers complaints process they will refer you to the Bar Standards Board.

You can write to them at: Legal Ombudsman, PO Box 6167, Slough, SL1 EH

Telephone number: 0300 55 0333

If you have any questions about the changes being made, or further clarity on what is required, please contact the Legal Ombudsman directly via: enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk

More information about the Legal Ombudsman is available on their website:

<http://www.legalombudsman.org.uk/>

Link to the decision data on the Legal Ombudsman website

The decision data on the LeO's website shows providers which received an ombudsman's decision in the previous calendar year. In each case, the data shows whether the LeO required the provider to give the consumer a remedy.

<https://www.legalombudsman.org.uk/raising-standards/data-and-decisions/>

16. If you are not the barrister's client and are unhappy with the outcome of our investigation then please contact the Bar Standards Board at:

Bar Standards Board Professional

Conduct Department 289-293 High

Holborn

London WC1V 7JZ

Telephone number: 0207 6111 444 Website :

www.barstandardsboard.org.uk

Link to the Barrister Register

The BSB's Barristers' Register shows (1) who has a current practising certificate, and (2) whether a barrister has any disciplinary findings, which are published on the Barristers' Register in accordance with their own [policy](#).

<https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/regulatory-requirements/the-barristers'-register/>