

Complaints Policy and Procedure

1 Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear statement of intent with regards to the assessment, handling and investigation of customer complaints. D4Drivers' complaint handling policy and procedure has been created to meet general standards and requirements and complies with standard compliant handling procedures, including the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) regulations.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that all customer complaints, either written or verbal, are handled in a consistent and regulated manner and that further complaint incidents are mitigated and where possible, prevented. Where a customer has cause to complain, the complaints handling procedure will be followed in every instance and a record will be made of the complaint nature and details to help improve our services and reduce the occurrence of similar complaints.

2 Purpose

D4Drivers are committed to delivering a fair, open and clear process for complaints and ensure a satisfactory outcome for all customers who raise a complaint. We provide thorough staff training in our internal complaint handling procedures and support our staff in how to handle complaint situations in a face-to-face, written and/or telephone environment.

This policy sets out our intent and objectives for how we handle complaints, from offering a clear and approachable system for customers to complain, through to conducting root cause analysis on all complaints received to identify the cause, issues and corrective actions regarding the complaint, and to implement measures to prevent reoccurrences where applicable.

3 Scope

The policy relates to all staff (meaning permanent, fixed term, and temporary staff, any third-party representatives or sub-contractors, agency workers, volunteers, interns and agents engaged with D4Drivers in the UK or overseas) within the organisation and has been created to ensure that staff deal with the area that this policy relates to in accordance with legal, regulatory, contractual and business expectations and requirements.

4 Objectives

D4Drivers objectives are laid out below regarding customer complaint handling. For the purposes of this policy, a complaint is defined as any customer contact whereby a negative communication or outcome has occurred. The customer does not have to formally address their communication as an official complaint or to request a response for D4Drivers to treat the incident as a complaint and to follow the related procedures.

D4Drivers' objectives for internal complaint handling are:

1. To provide a fair complaints procedure which is clear and easy to use for anyone wishing to make a complaint
2. To ensure that our complaints procedure is fully accessible so that people know how to contact us to make a complaint
3. To make sure everyone at D4Drivers knows what to do if a complaint is received
4. To make sure all complaints are investigated fairly and in a timely way

5. To gather information which helps us to improve what we do and how we do it
6. To ensure that the Data Protection Officer (or appointed person) is involved in any complaints relating to personal data

D4Drivers' objectives for the complaint handling process are:

1. Formal complaints will be investigated and responded to within 28 days from the date that the complaint form is received
2. Formal complaint responses will always be provided in writing (by email)
3. The complaint procedure will be available via the company website. Complaint forms will be provided upon verbal or written request
4. All complaints will be investigated by a trained member of staff who will consult with all relevant parties where it is practical and possible to do so
5. Complaint records will be used to revise company procedures and to improve communication and business practices where applicable

5 Procedures & Guidelines

5.1 Raising a Complaint

Customers who request D4Drivers' complaint handling procedure will be provided a copy of the procedure and a complaint form either by email, in a .pdf format or in the post, and will be asked to raise their complaint in writing as soon as possible after the incident.

NOTE: Complaints must be raised in writing

If a customer telephones D4Drivers and wishes to raise a complaint, they should be passed through to a senior member of staff who will try to resolve the complaint then and there.

Even if the complaint is resolved at the time, the customer must still be offered the option of receiving the complaints handling procedure and form prior to ending the call.

5.2 Informal Complaint Resolution

D4Drivers considers and responds to all complaints and issues, no matter how they are raised or what they refer to. Some issues and complaints we can resolve immediately or within a 3-working day timeframe and are referred to as **informal complaints**. Such instances are where an investigation is not required because the nature of the complaint is clear, and a resolution can be obtained without further review of the facts. Where we resolve a complaint within the timeframe, the details are still logged on our complaint register.

D4Drivers takes every opportunity to resolve complaints at the first initial point of contact where feasible and possible. Informal resolution is always attempted where the issues raised are straightforward and potentially easily resolved, requiring little or no investigation. Most face to face and telephone issues can be resolved in this manner, however the complainant is always offered the option of making the complaint formal if the resolution is not to their satisfaction.

Where an informal complaint is received, it is acceptable for the point of contact or addressed employee to attempt to resolve the issue without involving the Complaints Officer. However, any issue relating to data protection infringes or breaches, no matter how small or informal, are always brought to the attention of the DPO or appointed person.

Frontline staff are trained to deal with basic issues and informal complaint resolution and are aware of their obligations and the subsequent reporting lines. Such employees are equipped to attempt to resolve a complaint relevant to their area of service or expertise, wherever possible.

5.2.1 Timeframe for Informal Resolution

It is the aim of D4Drivers to resolve informal complaints immediately, or at least within the first 24-hours. Such complaints and issues will have a quick, but informative response and do not need to have an investigation or enter the formal complaint process.

No matter how small or informal the complaint, if a satisfactory resolution has not been achieved within 3 working days of the complaint being raised or identified, the issue is passed to the Complaints Officer to enter the formal complaint process.

5.3 Responding to a Complaint

Where an official complaint has been received or the informal complaint was unable to be resolved at the frontline point of contact, a written acknowledgement is sent to the customer within 3 working days. The response should detail the complaint handling procedure and provide approximate timelines and expectations for the investigation and future responses.

A trained manager, the Data Protection Officer or the Complaints Officer are the only staff members who should respond to customers regarding their complaints.

5.4 Investigating the Complaint

The designated employee will be assigned the role of investigating complaints and will gather all necessary documents, recordings and information to make an independent review of the incident.

All investigations must take place within 28 days of the initial complaint being received so that a final response (decision letter) can be sent to the customer within our designated 28 day period.

Investigations must utilise all the facts and any previous, related information to produce an unbiased outcome and an expected course of action. A complaint reference should be assigned and all documents relevant to the complaint should have the reference written on them for continuity.

The reference will also be added to the Complaints Log so that complaint and documents can be audited and traced back in the future.

All employees are provided with clear guidelines of when a complaint is formal and requires an appropriate investigation.

5.5 Decision Letter (Final Response)

After the complaint has been investigated in full and an outcome and action decision has been reached, the investigator or Complaints Officer will draft a final response letter to the customer with their findings and decision regarding any action(s) to be taken or compensation awarded.

The final response must be sent within 28 days of the initial response being raised.

For complaints related to personal data and/or breaches of the data protection laws and regulations, the final response will reiterate the complainant's right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority (the Information Commissioners Office) and will detail the ICO's telephone number and address, along with the possibility of seeking a judicial remedy.

6 Complaint Recording

All complaints, whether formal or informal, are recorded on a Customer Complaint Log. The log should consist of the below information and should be audited on a frequent basis to ensure that incidents are not being repeated and improvements are being made.

- Date of Complaint
- Customer Name
- Customer Reference
- Nature of Complaint
- Person(s) Involved
- Date Formal Complaint Received
- Complaint Reference
- Action Taken To Resolve
- Date Decision Letter Sent
- Date Complaint Closed

The log is made available to any relevant authority, ombudsman or body who relates or oversee the firms' complaints, as well as being made available with the local Trading Standards should a representative work alongside the organisation.

6.1 Patterns and Analysis

The complaint log and issues forms are reviewed quarterly by the appointed person to identify any patterns or reoccurring issues. D4Drivers are dedicated to improving our performance, services and functions through the auditing of our complaint records and our investigation process. Where gaps or patterns are identified, we put corrective actions and mitigating solutions into place as soon as possible and keep the function, process or person under a weekly review until a satisfactory improvement is noted.

7 Responsibilities

D4Drivers will ensure that all staff are provided with the time, resources and support to learn, understand and deal with customer complaints and that full training will be provided for new and existing employees on the complaint handling policy, procedures and expectations.

The Compliance Officer or a dedicated Complaints Officer will be appointed the role of overseeing, investigating and recording all customer complaints and is responsible for regular auditing of the complaints log to ensure mitigating actions and improvements are put into place where possible.

7.1 The Complaints Officer

D4Drivers has an appointed Complaints Officer who is provided with the training and support to understand, investigate and respond to complaints of all types. Where the complaint involves personal data, the Complaints Officer is assisted by the Data Protection Officer/Appointed Person to ensure that the Regulation and laws are followed, and the individuals' rights are exercised and complied with.

The Complaints Officer can complete their complaint handling duties independently and without bias and each complaint is reviewed to ensure that there is no conflict of interest with the appointed officer. If a conflict is identified (i.e. the complaint involves the investigating person) a deputy has been trained to handle the complaint.

The Complaints Officer has full authority and internal credibility to ask questions, carry out investigations and interviews, obtain and analyse evidence, recommend policy and process changes and be involved in department functions for the purposes of complaint handling.