

REPORT TO: Members' Library Service
MEETING DATE: May 2023
BY: Head of Corporate Support
SUBJECT: Quarterly Customer Feedback Reporting

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide members with quarterly Customer Feedback reporting noting improvements made to ensure compliance with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) reporting requirements in publishing data for performance indicators on a quarterly basis.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the contents of the report on the Council's complaints reporting for 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 East Lothian Council currently complies with the model complaints handling procedure (CHP) for local authorities introduced by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO):

Stage 1 (Frontline Resolution) - Complaint dealt with at point of service within 5 working days

Stage 2 (Investigation) – Complaint investigated; acknowledged within 3 working days and response provided within 20 working days

If complainants remain dissatisfied after completing this process they have a legal right of appeal to the SPSO.

- 3.2 Customer feedback is recorded within the Council's new Customer Platform (OCP), which provides data on the types of complaints customers make about Council services, as well as complaint handling performance. This system also records comments and compliments from customers.
- 3.3 Feedback is formally channelled through the Contact Centre, local area offices and the Customer Feedback Team to ensure accurate recording and reporting. Service areas are actively encouraged to report complaints through the formal reporting channels where feedback is received directly to them.
- 3.4 The SPSO has developed performance indicators that allow the Council to assess and demonstrate how it is carrying out its functions.

- 3.5 The SPSO requires the Council to report on these performance indicators on a quarterly basis and that the Council's performance is published on the Council's website. A new complaints performance document has been produced and published on the Council's website detailing ELC's quarterly complaints data meaning that ELC is compliant with the SPSO guidelines on publication.
- 3.6 The required quarterly reporting on the SPSO performance indicators has now been adopted as part of the Council's standard reporting mechanism for Complaint Handling. Annual reporting and trends is available for viewing in the PPRC report:
https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/22269/05_customer_feedback_reporting_202021
- 3.7 This report highlights performance in Q4 (1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023). The figures for Quarter 4 can be found in Appendix 1.
- 3.8 Customer Feedback will publish findings in accordance with SPSO performance requirements.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – None.
- 6.2 Personnel – None.
- 6.3 Other – None.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

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DATE	11/05/2023

Appendix 1

Quarterly Complaints Report 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023

1. The total number of complaints received per thousand of the population.

This indicator gives the total number of complaints received by the Council. The *National Records of Scotland Mid-Year Estimates 2016* gives the population of the Council area to be approximately 109,580.

Period	Total Stage 1	Stage 1 escalated to Stage 2	Stage 2 complaints	Complaints per head of population
1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023	163	10	20	1.8%

2. Complaints closed at Stage 1 and Stage 2 as a percentage of all complaints closed.

The term “closed” refers to a complaint to which a customer has had a response and no further action is required.

Period	Total number of complaints closed	Stage 1 complaints closed as a % of all complaints	Stage 2 complaints closed as a % of all complaints
1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023	180	86.7%	13.3%

*Totals will not match as not all complaints are closed in the same quarter as in which they are received.

3. The number of complaints upheld, partially upheld, not upheld or resolved at each stage as a percentage of complaints closed in full at each stage.

Stage 1 outcomes

Period	Total Stage 1	% Not Upheld	% Partially Upheld	% Upheld	Resolved
1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023	156	26.9%(42)	9.0%(14)	16.0%(25)	48.1%(75)

Escalated Complaints

Period	Total Stage 2	% Not Upheld	% Partially Upheld	% Upheld	Resolved
1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023	6	66.7%(4)	33.3%(2)	0%(0)	0%(0)

Stage 2 – Outcomes

Period	Total Stage 2	% Not Upheld	% Partially Upheld	% Upheld	Resolved
1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023	18	61.1%(11)	22.2%(4)	16.7%(3)	0%(0)

*Totals will not match as not all complaints are closed in the same quarter as in which they are received.

4. The average time, in working days, for a full response to complaints at each stage.

This indicator represents the average time in working days to close complaints at Stage 1 and at Stage 2. SPSO procedures specify Stage 1 complaints to be resolved within 5 working days and Stage 2 complaints to be resolved within 20 working days.

Stage 1

Period	Days taken to resolve Stage 1	Total number of Stage 1 complaints closed	Average time to resolve Stage 1
1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023	1367	156	8.8

Stage 2

Period	Days taken to resolve Stage 2	Total number of Stage 2 complaints	Average time to resolve Stage 2
1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023	388	18	21.6

5. The number and percentage of complaints, at each stage, which were closed in full within the set timescales of 5 and 20 working days.

This indicator presents the number and percentage of complaints closed within 5 working days at Stage 1 and 20 working days at Stage 2.

Stage 1

Period	Number of complaints closed	Number of complaints closed within 5 working days	Number of complaints closed within 5 working days as % of complaints closed.
1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023	156	62	39.7%

Stage 2

Period	Number of complaints closed	Number of complaints closed within 20 working days	Number of complaints closed within 20 working days as % of complaints closed
1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023	18	11	61.1%

6. The number and percentage of complaints, at each stage, where an extension to the 5 or 20 working days timeline has been authorised.

The Council's CHP allows for an extension to the timescales to be authorised in certain circumstances. An example would be where a key member of staff is on annual leave or when during school holidays.

Stage 1

Period	Number of complaints closed	Number of complaints closed where an extension had been authorised	% of complaints closed where an extension had been authorised as % of all complaints closed
1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023	156	94	60.3%

Stage 2

Period	Number of complaints closed	Number of complaints closed where an extension had been authorised	% of complaints closed where an extension had been authorised as % of all complaints closed
1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023	18	7	38.9%

7. A statement to report customer satisfaction with the complaints service.

The SPSO have introduced a new set of standard questions for all local authorities to use to regarding customer satisfaction surveys and training. This is with a view to allow for meaningful benchmarking and was implemented on the 1st April 2021. Customer Feedback have reintroduced the customer satisfaction survey both electronic and a paper version to allow greater benchmarking recordable data.

Period	Number of complaints closed	Number of Surveys Issued	Number of Surveys Returned
1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023	180	62	5

8. A statement outlining changes or improvements, to services or procedures, as a result of the consideration of complaints.

This qualitative indicator is intended to identify service improvements/learnings from complaints that were derived from complaints during the reporting period.

There are none to report for this quarter.