

COMPLAINTS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Policy

Introduction

Sentinel Group Security Limited is committed to providing a high quality experience for all its users through its training delivery. It encourages a positive environment in which informal contact and feedback from learners is welcomed and where complaints can be dealt with effectively and efficiently. The complaints procedure outlines the processes to be used when a learner has cause for concern.

Aims of the Policy

- To provide a clear framework to help anyone who is not satisfied with the company's services to raise their concerns and to ensure that the company responds effectively.
- To ensure that the company has systems in place to make improvements happen because of a complaint.
- To encourage prompt resolution at an early informal stage.
- To ensure that all complaints are dealt with seriously, fairly, and sensitively, with no resultant victimization of a complainant.
- To raise awareness of the policy and procedures and ensure that instructors understand the processes through appropriate training.
- To define responsibilities and allocate duties to individual members of company staff in relation to procedures set out.

Scope

This document should be used by anyone who wishes to make a complaint about our services including, students, employers, partners, residents, or other users. Third parties with a close connection to the learner, wishing to complain on behalf of the learner, must produce written agreement from the learner stating that they can act on their behalf.

Definitions

A complaint is an expression of dissatisfaction by one or more members of the public about an organization's action or lack of action, or about the standard of service provided by or on behalf of the organization. Requests for services or changes to services, comments, suggestions, and questionnaire feedback are not considered as complaints and therefore, do not fall within this process.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **The Managing Director** receives all formal complaints and is responsible for logging and monitoring the complaints in accordance with the procedures below.
- **All instructors and front-line staff** have a responsibility for receiving complaints, treating them seriously and dealing with them appropriately. Wherever possible, complaints should be dealt with informally and promptly. All complaints (formal and informal) received by a member of staff must be forwarded to the Managing Director to be recorded.
- **The Managing Director** has a responsibility to take a lead role in resolving complaints through investigation (when appropriate) and responding to the complainant.

Confidentiality

All complaints will be handled sensitively and with discretion. If a learner makes a complaint against a member of staff, that member of staff may be informed about the substance of the complaint so that they are in a position to make a response. The company will not normally investigate anonymous or malicious complaints except in exceptional circumstances and for justifiable reasons. This may be considered if the complainant wishes to remain anonymous in cases of harassment.

Procedure

1. Informal Complaints

1.1. It is hoped that most complaints can be dealt with using informal procedure.

1.2. Concerns should be raised in the first instance with the person or area concerned as soon as possible, and not later than 3 months after the incident. If appropriate, a meeting will be offered between the person complaining and area they are complaining about to arrive to an agreed resolution.

1.3. If a complaint is about an instructor or member of staff, it should be referred to the appropriate line manager.

1.4. If a learner reports a fault with the training environment (e.g. not clean or broken chair etc.) or its surrounding facilities, the instructor is to report it to the building manager at the earliest opportunity.

1.5. At this informal stage complaint may be made in person, by phone or by email.

1.6. All informal complaints, even when satisfactorily resolved, should be forwarded to the Managing Director to be logged.

2. Formal complaints

Where complaints are very serious or the matter has not been resolved informally, the complainant should raise a formal complaint under the following procedure.

Complaints made more than 3 months after the incident will not normally be investigated.

2.1. Filling out a complaints form: The complainant should fill out a Complaints Form (Annex A) having read the complaints Policy and Procedure. The form should be returned to the Managing Director at Sentinel House, 36 Oakwood Hill Industrial Estate, Loughton, Essex IG10 3TZ.

2.2. Acknowledgement: The Managing Director will send an acknowledgment (normally within 5 working days) stating who will be investigating the complaint and that a response will be provided within 20 working days.

2.3. Logging the complaint: The Managing Director maintains a spreadsheet of all complaints, their progress and outcome.

2.4. Investigation of the complaint: The Managing Director will carry out the investigation. During this stage the complainant may be contacted for further information or to be invited to meet the Managing Director (a friend or family member may accompany them, however, an accompanying person cannot take active part in the proceedings but can offer support to the complainant).

2.5. Resolution: The Managing Director will consider the complaint thoroughly and will complete an Investigation Summary Form (Annex B) to be held on file for record purposes. The Managing Director will make a judgement based on evidence gathered and will decide to:

- Dismiss the complaint as unfounded, giving reasons.
- Uphold or partially uphold the complaint, propose an amicable settlement, take appropriate steps to address the issue and to avoid a similar problem arising in the future.

The outcome of the investigation will normally be communicated to the complainant by the Managing Director and a copy of the letter will be kept on file.

2.6. Dissatisfied at the outcome of a complaint: If there is dissatisfaction at the outcome of a complaint investigation carried out by Sentinel Group Security Limited, the complainant has the right to escalate their complaint to the Awarding Body, If the complainant is still dissatisfied with the outcome from the awarding body, they can escalate the complaint to the relevant Qualification Regulator.

2.7. Quality improvement: The Managing Director will ensure that relevant action is taken to change procedures or implement staff training to prevent recurrence of the complaint.

2.8. Monitoring the complaint: The Managing Director is responsible for monitoring all logged complaints to ensure they are resolved within the allotted 20 Working days, and will inform the complainant if they are unable to meet the agreed timescale.

2.9. Evaluation: A record of complaints and outcomes will be recorded on a complaints database. The database will be analyzed on a regular basis to ensure that actions are carried out to address issues raised.

HOW TO MAKE A COMPLAINT

Stage 1: How to make an Informal Complaint

Where possible, complaints should be raised immediately with the member of staff most directly concerned with the issue. The aim being to resolve the problem directly and informally at the earliest opportunity.

Stage 2: How to make a Formal Complaint

If you find that Stage 1 does not solve your problem, or you feel that it is of a very serious nature, you should make a formal complaint by completing the Complaints Form and returning it to the Managing Director, Sentinel House, 36 Oakwood Hill Industrial Estate, Loughton, Essex IG10 3TZ. You will receive acknowledgement within 5 working days, and following an investigation into your complaint, we will send a full response within 20 working days of receiving your complaint (unless you are informed otherwise).

Stage 3: How to petition against a decision

If you find that you are dissatisfied with the outcome of a complaint, you have the right to escalate it, in writing, to the Awarding Body. If you are still dissatisfied with the outcome from the Awarding Body, you can escalate the complaint in writing to the relevant Qualification Regulator.

COMPLAINTS FORM

When completed, please send to: The Managing Director Sentinel House, 36 Oakwood Hill Industrial Estate, Loughton, Essex IG10 3TZ.

If you need help completing this form please call: 02085146565

Personal Details:

Name	Course

Address

Contact No.	Email

Declaration: I have read and understood the company Complaints Policy and Procedure

Signature	Date (DD/MM/YYYY)
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Have you raised this issue informally?	Yes	No
<p>If yes, please provide details of the outcome below.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; margin-top: 10px;"></div>		

For office use: Date complaint logged DD/MM/YYYY

COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATION SUMMARY FORM

Basic details of complaint:

(include the basis for the complaint and any members of staff involved)

Details of investigation:

(includes details of interviews and investigative processes carried out)

Declaration: I have concluded this investigation and will inform the complainant of my decision at the earliest opportunity.

Signature

____/____/____
Date (DD/MM/YYYY)