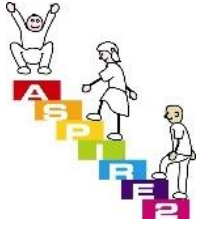


Aspire 2 Policy	Complaints Procedure	
Approved By	Charlie Clare, Chair of Trustees	
Approval Date	17 November 2022	
Reviewed every	3 years	
Review Date	17 November 2025	

ASPIRE2 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Introduction

ASPIRE2 views complaints as an opportunity to learn and improve for the future, as well as a chance to put things right for the person [or organisation] that has made the complaint.

Our policy is:

To provide a fair complaints procedure which is clear and easy to use for anyone wishing to make a complaint.

To publicise the existence of our complaints procedure so that people know how to contact us to make a complaint.

To make sure everyone at ASPIRE2 knows what to do if a complaint is received

To make sure all complaints are investigated fairly and in a timely way

To make sure that complaints are, wherever possible, resolved and that relationships are repaired

To gather information which helps us to improve what we do

Definition of a Complaint

A complaint is any expression of dissatisfaction, whether justified or not, about any aspect of ASPIRE2 – encompassing both our fund raising and activities.

Where Complaints Come From

Complaints may come from any individual, volunteer or organisation who has a legitimate interest in ASPIRE2, including the general public if something is perceived to be improper

A complaint can be received verbally, by phone, by email or in writing.

This policy does not cover complaints from Trustees and Partners, who should refer to ASPIRE2's internal policy on such matters.

Confidentiality

All complaint information will be handled sensitively, telling only those who need to know and following any relevant data protection requirements.

Responsibility

Overall responsibility for this policy and its implementation lies with the board of Trustees of ASPIRE2.

Review

This policy is reviewed regularly and updated as required.

Receiving Complaints

Complaints may arrive through channels publicised for that purpose or through any other contact details or opportunities the complainant may have, such as social media. Complaints received by telephone or in person need to be recorded.

The person who receives a complaint by phone call or in person should:

- Write down the facts of the complaint
- Take the complainant's name, address and telephone number
- Note down the relationship of the complainant to ASPIRE2, e.g. donor, volunteer, sponsor
- Tell the complainant that we have a complaints procedure
- Tell the complainant what will happen next and how long it will take
- Where appropriate, ask the complainant to send a written account by post or by email so that the complaint is recorded in the complainant's own words

Resolving Complaints

Stage One

In many cases, a complaint is best resolved by the person responsible for the issue being complained about. If the complaint has been received by that person, they may be able to resolve it swiftly and should do so if possible and appropriate.

Whether or not the complaint has been resolved, the outcome should be passed to the ASPIRE2 Business Manager within five business days.

On receiving the complaint, the Business Manager records it. If it has not already been resolved, they delegate an appropriate person to investigate it and to take appropriate action. If the complaint relates to a specific person, they should be informed and given a fair opportunity to respond. Complaints should be acknowledged by the person handling the complaint within five working days. The acknowledgement should say who is dealing with the complaint and when the person complaining can expect a reply. A copy of this complaints procedure should be attached. Ideally complainants should receive a definitive reply within a month. If this is not possible because for example, an investigation has not been fully completed, a progress report should be sent with an indication of when a full reply will be given. Whether the complaint is justified or not, the reply to the complainant

should describe the action taken to investigate the complaint, the conclusions from the investigation, and any action taken as a result of the complaint.

Stage Two

If the complainant feels that the problem has not been satisfactorily resolved at Stage One, they can request that the complaint is reviewed by a Committee of Trustees. At this stage, the complaint will be passed to a committee of three Trustees. The request for the review should be acknowledged within five working days of receiving it. The acknowledgement should say who will deal with the case and when the complainant can expect a reply.

The Committee of Trustees may investigate the facts of the case themselves or delegate an external person to do so. This may involve reviewing the paperwork of the case and speaking with the person who dealt with the complaint at Stage One. The person who dealt with the original complaint at Stage One should be kept informed of what is happening. If the complaint relates to a specific person, they should be informed and given a further opportunity to respond. Ideally complainants should receive a definitive reply within a month. If this is not possible because for example, an investigation has not been fully completed, a progress report should be sent with an indication of when a full reply will be given. Whether the complaint is upheld or not, the reply to the complainant should describe the action taken to investigate the complaint, the conclusions from the investigation, and any action taken as a result of the complaint. The decision taken at this stage is final.

Variation of the Complaints Procedure

The Trustees may vary the procedure for good reason. This may be necessary to avoid a conflict of interest, for example, a complaint about a Chair or Trustee should not also have the Chair and/or Trustee involved as a person leading a Stage Two review.

Monitoring and Learning from Complaints

Complaints are reviewed annually to identify any trends which may indicate a need for changes to policy and/or practice.