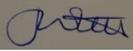


Complaints Policy and Procedure

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Date	27.10.23						
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Introduction

This policy and procedure has been developed to support Maybird Training's values to provide an open, honest, and transparent service for all customers. Its purpose is the recognition that all users of the company's services have a right to raise complaints and to have problems investigated and appropriately acted upon.

Commitment

Maybird Training welcomes and encourages feedback from apprentices, learners, employers, and other stakeholders to enable continuous improvement of our services. Where complaints occur, Maybird Training makes every effort to resolve them quickly and at the most appropriate level.

It is our aim to ensure that:

- Making a complaint is as easy as possible.
- All complaints are treated as a clear expression of dissatisfaction with our service which calls for an immediate response.
- We deal with it promptly, politely and, when appropriate, confidentially.
- We will respond to your complaint informing you of what action we have taken.
- We aim to learn from complaints and feedback and use them to improve our service.

Scope of the policy

This policy applies to all complaints from enrolled apprentices/learners, and those applying for courses, parents/carers of learners under 18, employers and other users of Maybird Training's services and facilities.

The Policy does not cover complaints about assessment which is covered by the Appeals procedure.

Staff complaints will be resolved using the Maybird Training Staff Grievance Procedures.

Complaints which are deemed to fall into any of the categories listed below will not be considered under the scope of this policy and procedure.

- Anonymous
- Already been investigated and resolved.
- Outside the scope of the procedure.
- Made without adequate grounds.
- Made outside the time limit.
- Been disposed of in court or tribunal proceedings brought by the complainant or under settlement agreement between the complainants.
- Are malicious, vexatious, or frivolous.

If an apprentice is found to have made a malicious complaint, this could lead to disciplinary action being taken.

It is anticipated that most complaints will be resolved satisfactorily on an informal basis and close to their point of origin.

Except in exceptional circumstances, we will try to ensure that your complaint remains confidential, but in some cases the circumstances may need to be discussed with other parties therefore it may not be possible to maintain confidentiality. In these situations, we will discuss this with the complainant.

Location of the policy

This policy is available for all staff members, employers, and apprentices to access on the online Portfolio, the Maybird Training website (where it can be accessed by parents and carers). This information is shared during induction.

This policy can be accessed at the bottom of the welcome page on the Maybird Training website: <https://www.maybirdtraining.com/>

It is important that staff involved in the management, delivery, assessment and quality assurance of qualifications, employers and apprentices undertaking these qualifications, are fully aware of the contents of the policy.

Principles

Whenever possible any concerns will be dealt with as soon as any member of the staff is made aware of them. Many concerns can be dealt with informally by contacting your Tutor, the main office on 01233 234402 or by emailing info@maybirdtraining.com. If you are not satisfied with the response or feel your concern requires a more official or formal response, please follow our process defined within this policy.

Maybird Training will only respond to formal complaints that have been raised within three months of the occurrence of the complaint.

A formal complaint will be acknowledged within 24 hours of receipt by the Complaints Officer.

Julie Williams is the company's Complaints Officer 07881 795615 and maintains a record of complaints received and their outcome.

Sonya McPherson-Hills is the Director 07725 328666 referred to within this policy and procedure. Following the investigation, a response will be sent to the complainant within 7 working days. Where more time is needed, e.g., the complaint is complex and prevents the completion of the investigation, the complainant will be sent an interim letter outlining progress with the investigation and giving a date for the full response.

Responses to complaints will include details on appeals. Valid appeals will usually be investigated and responded to within 20 working days.

Although staff cannot make a complaint to a stakeholder on behalf of an apprentice, we will assist in presenting and recording a complaint.

Maybird Training Responsibilities

All staff are responsible for ensuring that complaints are dealt with in a supportive, courteous, and timely manner.

Complaints will usually be investigated by the manager responsible for the provision, service, procedure, or facility about which the complaint is made.

A complainant has the right of appeal against the response to his/her complaint.

Complainant Responsibility

Complainants are expected to bring their complaint to Maybird Training's attention detailing the reasons for the complaint occurring.

To facilitate the investigation the complainant should explain the problem as clearly and as fully as possible (such as including names, times, dates) and include any action taken to date.

Complainants must recognise that some circumstances are beyond the control of Maybird Training, which will impact on the final outcome of any complaint.

The Procedure

Stage 1 (Informal)

The complainant should raise their concerns with the member of staff who has direct responsibility for the matter in question to try to achieve a satisfactory resolution. If they are unable to do that, or they feel their initial complaint has not been rectified, they can contact the Complaints Officer, Julie Williams on 07881 795615 or by email info@Maybirdtraining.com. If the complainant is still dissatisfied, the formal process should be followed.

Stage 2 (Formal)

Formal complaints must be sent in writing by sending it to:

Complaints Officer

Maybird Training, Unit 1 Wotton Trading Estate, Wotton Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 6LL.

Or via the email addresses stated above.

If the company receives a formal complaint in writing, they must add the date when it was received before passing the communication immediately to the Complaints Officer who will log it and acknowledge its receipt to the complainant.

The Complaints Officer will either fully investigate the complaint themselves or appoint an appropriate investigating manager who will conduct a full investigation, and this will normally be the relevant manager. However, if that person has already had some involvement with the issue, the Complaints Officer will conduct the investigation or assign another manager.

Within 7 working days of receiving a complaint from the Complaints Officer, the investigating manager will provide the Complaints Officer with the results of the investigation and a signed letter of reply for the complainant, detailing the outcome and actions arising from the investigation.

In highly exceptional cases where the investigating manager is unable to meet the above timescale, this will be communicated to the complainant.

The Complaints Officer will advise the Director of any investigations where a complaint has not been fully resolved.

If the complaint is about the Complaints Officer, then the complaint can be directed straight to the Director at the above address.

Appeals

The complainant has the right of appeal against the response to his/her complaint. The appeal may only be made on one or more of the following grounds.

- That there is additional evidence that could not have been made available at the time the original complaint was considered
- Proper procedure was not followed.

Appeals Procedure

The complainant should send their appeal in writing to the Director within 15 days of the date of the letter outlining the outcomes of the investigation. The letter of appeal should clearly state the grounds of appeal (see above). Any appeals which do not include this information will not be considered.

The Director will review the investigation and provide a written response to the complainant usually within 20 working days.

If the appeal is upheld, Maybird Training will make clear the actions taken to address the issue. If the appeal is not upheld, the response will detail the findings of the appeal process.

Both the appeal and the response will be copied to the Complaints Officer.

In exceptional circumstances, the Director will convene a panel. This would only occur where significant new evidence has been received.

The appeal panel will consist of a member of the Senior Management Team and a Governor.

The Director offers a date for the appeal hearing and confirms the details in writing to the complainant. The appeal panel meeting is usually arranged within 20 working days of the receipt of the grounds for appeal.

The complainant will be offered the opportunity to be accompanied by a friend or a representative (who may not be a practicing solicitor or barrister).

The appeal panel considers the matters identified in the grounds for appeal and may uphold, amend or overturn the original decision of the company.

The record of the decision of the appeal panel will be provided within 10 working days of the panel meeting.

There is no further right of appeal within Maybird Training's procedures. Complainants can contact the relevant external agencies if they feel Maybird Training has not dealt with the complaint according to this procedure.

Funding – Education and Skills Funding Agency
complaints.ESFA@education.gov.uk
Complaints team
Education and Skills Funding Agency
Cheylesmore House
Quinton Road
Coventry
CV1 2WT

Awarding Body – TQUK
03333 583 344
support@tquk.org
Crossgate
House, Cross St,
Sale, M33 7FT

End Point Assessment
Organisation – TQUK – as above

Monitoring and Frequency of Review

If there are records of complaint on file, these will be reviewed as part of the organisation's Quality Improvement Plan.

Where available Maybird Training will collect and analyse anonymised data on complainants to identify differences between groups and to allow issues to be identified and practice addressed: Age, Gender, Ethnic Origin, Disability, Medical Ill Health.

This policy and procedure will be reviewed by SMT and governors annually unless circumstances require an immediate update.

Breach of the Policy

Maybird Training will take seriously any instances of non-adherence to the policy by its staff. Where appropriate, instances may be referred to the Company's disciplinary procedure.