

DPC Customer Complaints Management Policy (GL-2)

1. Policy statement

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) is committed to responding to feedback. Responding effectively and efficiently to feedback helps us improve our services and deliver better outcomes.

2. Scope

This policy applies to customer complaints about a service or action of DPC, or its staff, by a person who is apparently directly affected by the service or action. This includes complaints about a breach of an individual's privacy or human rights, or a breach by DPC of the Charter of Victims' Rights.

Note:

- *Complaints that are deemed by the DPC Complaints Coordinator not to be about the above (for example, a comment on a government policy or the actions of another department) are not managed under this policy.*
- *Individual employee grievances are not managed under this policy. Refer to DPC's Individual Employee Grievances Policy.*
- *Complaints received that are not managed under this policy may be referred by DPC to another agency (for example, the relevant department, the Crime and Corruption Commission, the Queensland Ombudsman). When this happens, the complainant will be notified of referral in writing, with consent obtained prior, as appropriate.*

3. Principles

Principles	This means we will...
1. People focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights • recognise and respect everybody’s right to provide feedback • demonstrate a commitment to addressing feedback in a timely manner and without charge • involve the complainant in the process as far as is practicable and appropriate
2. Remedies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attempt early, informal resolution and compromise wherever possible, at the lowest level possible (i.e. at manager level) • offer remedies that are fair to all parties, minimising the possibility of ongoing dispute
3. Visibility and access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure clear information is available on DPC’s website about how and where to make a complaint and how complaints are managed • provide reasonable adjustment to complainants as required • recognise and address complaints provided anonymously, or through an authorised third party in the same manner as any other complaint, noting that, where contact details are not provided, complaints may not always be able to be fully investigated
4. Responsiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • record, track, acknowledge and process complaints in a timely manner, in accordance with the relevant DPC complaints management procedure • ensure that the complainant is aware of the process, timeframes, their likely involvement, the possible outcomes of the complaint and any other necessary information

Principles	This means we will...
5. Objectivity and fairness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • manage complaints objectively and deal with them fairly, respectfully, consistently, in accordance with the principles of natural justice, and without actual, potential or perceived conflicting interests • take all reasonable steps to ensure that neither the complainant nor the subject officer of the complaint are adversely affected while the complaint is being assessed • ensure the rights of employees, to the extent possible, are considered when they are subject of a complaint • deal with complaints confidentially to the extent possible and with personal information in accordance with the <i>Information Privacy Act 2009</i> • refuse to investigate a complaint if it is considered to be abusive, trivial, or vexatious
6. Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide adequate and timely feedback on complaints to all parties • notify complainants of their internal and external review options
7. Monitoring and reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • record and report complaints in accordance with legislative and other requirements • commit to using complaints as an essential tool for continuous improvement
8. Resources and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure adequate resources (including training where required) are available to DPC staff reviewing complaints • empower staff to implement DPC’s complaints management system as appropriate.

4. Responsibilities

Responsible officer

The Executive Director, Governance and Integrity performs the role of DPC Customer Complaints Coordinator. This role also functions as the DPC Public Interest Disclosure Coordinator.

The Associate Director-General, Governance and Engagement performs the role of DPC’s Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) Liaison Officer. This role has direct access to the Director-General.

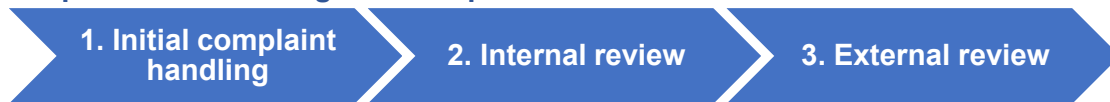
5. Implementing the policy

How to make a complaint to DPC

Complaints may be made to DPC online, in writing or by telephone. For more information about how to contact us, and what information should be provided, please visit:

www.premiers.qld.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/compliments-and-complaints.aspx

Our process for dealing with complaints



Step 1 - Initial complaint handling: we will try to resolve your complaint at your first point of contact, or within 1 business day of receipt of the complaint, if possible, for example on the phone or in person (Early informal resolution). Otherwise, your complaint will go through a process of acknowledgement, assessment and response, with a written advice to be provided to you on the outcome of your complaint.

Step 2 - Internal review: if you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your complaint or how the complaint was handled, you may seek an internal review, which will be conducted by a Senior DPC Officer.

Step 3 - External review: if you are dissatisfied with the internal review, you may seek an external review by an independent external review body. The external review bodies available include the:

- Office of the Queensland Ombudsman
- Office of the Information Commissioner (for complaints about breaches of privacy)
- the Queensland Human Rights Commission (for complaints about a breach of human rights under the *Human Rights Act 2019*)

Our timeframes

If you make a complaint and it is not resolved at the first point of contact, you can expect:

- your complaint to be acknowledged within 3 business days
- simple complaints (that are not of a serious nature and/or not requiring extensive investigation or consultation) to be resolved within 30 business days
- if there is going to be a delay in responding to your complaint due to complexity or the requirement of extensive investigation, to be informed why and provided regular updates on the progress of the complaint.

If your complaint relates to a breach of human rights by DPC, you can expect your complaint to be finalised within 45 business days.

If your complaint relates to a breach of privacy by DPC, you can expect your complaint to be finalised within 45 business days. If the 45 business days have passed and you have exhausted your efforts with DPC to resolve the complaint or if DPC has not responded to your complaint, then you can make a privacy complaint to the Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC). The OIC provides a mediation service to the parties to complaints.

A request for internal review must be made in writing, within 20 business days of receiving written advice of the outcome of your complaint. You can expect to receive a response to your request for internal review within 20 business days.

Charter of Victims' Rights complaints

If you have been harmed by violent crime, [you have rights](#). You should be treated appropriately by government and non-government agencies in accordance with the [Charter of Victims' Rights](#).

You can make a complaint if you think DPC has not behaved in accordance with the Charter of Victims' Rights. A friend or family member can also make the complaint for you, with your permission. You can make a complaint directly to DPC through our complaints process. Alternatively you can make a complaint directly to the [Office of the Victims' Commissioner](#).

Responding to and closing a complaint

We are committed to:

- encouraging better relationships with our customers through meaningful feedback and resolution wherever possible
- staff development and business improvement, by advising the nature, outcomes and causes of complaints to all officers concerned.

Unreasonable complainant conduct

There may be occasions when a customer's conduct could be considered unreasonable. These might include:

- frequent, lengthy, repeated or abusive telephone calls, which occupy significant staff time and resources
- frequent letters, emails, faxes or visits seeking resolution of issues beyond the scope of the original complaint or before the decision due date
- seeking information, advice or resolutions from a variety of staff about the same issue
- any contact which involves abusive or threatening language or behaviour
- the customer continues to contact the department after feedback has been provided regarding the complaint and all avenues of review have been exhausted.

DPC will consider the relevant circumstances, including staff welfare and appropriate use of department resources and make a decision regarding limiting the complainant's contact with the department, for example:

- restricting the times for and/or frequency of contact
- designating a single officer with whom the complainant may have contact, such as a manager
- nominating the acceptable form of contact, for example written communication only.

Decisions regarding limiting contact with the department will be communicated to the complainant in writing.

Different procedures may apply to some complaints

DPC is required to address certain types of complaints in specific manners. The DPC Complaints Coordinator will assess and address an incoming complaint as per the below table.

Type of complaint	The complaint is governed by this policy and the...
Complaints about DPC products, services and employees.	DPC Customer Complaints Management Procedure. <i>Australian Standard ISO 10002:2022 Guidelines for Complaint Management in Organisations</i>
A complaint which is an allegation about 'corrupt conduct' as defined under s.15 of	DPC Corrupt Conduct Procedure.

Type of complaint	The complaint is governed by this policy and the...
the <i>Crime and Corruption Commission Act 2001</i> (CC Act)	Note: the complaint may be referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) for investigation or investigated by DPC and reported to the CCC if required under the CC Act.
A complaint assessed as a public interest disclosure (PID) in accordance with the <i>Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010</i> (PID Act)	DPC Public Interest Disclosure Procedure and the PID Act. Note: a complaint that may constitute a PID relating to another public sector entity may be referred to the other entity for consideration. This may require the agreement of the discloser.
Complaint that DPC has breached an individual's privacy	<i>Information Privacy Act 2009</i> , <i>DPC Privacy Policy</i> , <i>DPC Data Breach Policy and Data Breach Response Plan</i> and the DPC Customer Complaints Management Procedure.
A complaint alleging a breach of an individual's human rights	<i>Human Rights Act 2019</i> , DPC Human Rights Policy and DPC Customer Complaints Management Procedure. Note: a complaint that another government entity has breached an individual's human rights will be referred to the relevant government entity for consideration.
A complaint that DPC has not complied with the Charter of Victims' Rights	<i>Sexual Violence Review Board Act 2024</i> (the Charter of Victims' Rights) and DPC Customer Complaints Management Procedure.
A complaint about a CEO	Complaints about a CEO are referred to the Associate Director-General, Governance and Engagement and managed under the DPC Customer Complaints Management Procedure.

Reporting and record keeping

Before 30 September each year, in accordance with Section 264 of the *Public Sector Act 2022*, the Director-General of DPC will publish on the DPC website information about:

- a) the number of customer complaints received in the financial year ending 30 June that year
- b) the number of complaints (if any) resulting in further action
- c) the number of complaints (if any) resulting in no further action.

Under section 97 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*, DPC publishes annual human rights complaints data in the DPC's Annual Report, including:

- a) the number of human rights complaints received
- b) the outcome of the complaints.

Under section 59 of the *Victims' Commissioner and Sexual Violence Review Board Act 2024*, DPC publishes Charter of Victims' Rights complaints data annually, including:

- a) the total number of Charter complaints received by DPC in the financial year
- b) the number of complaints made in relation to each general right and right relating to the criminal justice system under the Charter of Victims' Rights

- c) the number of complaints referred to another government entity
- d) how each complaint was dealt with by DPC
- e) any other information DPC considers appropriate about each complaint.

Complaint data including any trends and if applicable analysis will be considered every six months. DPC will keep detailed and accurate records about complaints, beginning at initial receipt, and tracking the progress of the complaint. In some instances, a customer complaint may not need to be recorded at the time of receipt, where it is not reasonably practicable to record it, if it is addressed immediately at the first point of contact or within 1 business day of receipt of the complaint (through early informal resolution), or the complainant has been provided with information about how to lodge a complaint.

Personal information that is received by an agency through its customer complaints management process will be managed in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

All customer complaint records will be managed in line with the *Public Records Act 2002* and the *General Retention and Disposal Schedule*.

6. Legislation and associated documents

Legislation

Crime and Corruption Act 2001

Human Rights Act 2019

Information Privacy Act 2009

Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010

Public Records Act 2002

Public Sector Act 2022

Victims' Commissioner and Sexual Violence Review Board Act 2024

Cabinet-approved, whole-of-government policies

Queensland Public Service Customer Complaint Management Framework

Queensland Public Service Customer Complaint Management Guideline

Delegations/authorisations

Nil

Related policies and frameworks

General Retention and Disposal Schedule

DPC Data Breach Policy

DPC Human Rights Policy

DPC Privacy Policy

DPC Privacy Governance Framework

Charter of Victims' Rights

Australian Standard ISO 10002:2022 Guidelines for Complaint Management in Organisations

Related procedures

DPC Corrupt Conduct Procedure

DPC Customer Complaints Management Procedure

DPC Data Breach Response Plan

DPC Incident Response Handbook

DPC Public Interest Disclosure Procedure

Guidelines, local work instructions

Nil

7. Definitions

<p><i>Customer complaints (also, complaints)</i></p>	<p>Complaints about the service or action of DPC, or its staff, by a person who is apparently directly affected by the service or action, including complaints about a breach by DPC of an individual's privacy or human rights.</p>
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