



[Dolphin Stairlifts South West Ltd](#)

[Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure](#)

Our Aim

Dolphin Stairlifts South West Ltd is committed to providing a quality service and working in an open and accountable way that builds trust and respect. One of the ways in which we can continue to improve our service is by listening and responding to the views of our clients, and in particular by responding positively to complaints, and by putting mistakes right.

Therefore we aim to ensure that:

- making a compliment or complaint is as easy as possible
- we welcome compliments, feedback and suggestions
- we treat a complaint 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 respond in the right way - for example, with an explanation, or an apology where we have got things wrong, or information on any action taken etc.
- we learn from complaints, use them to improve our service

We recognise that many concerns will be raised informally, and dealt with quickly.

Our aims are to:

- resolve informal concerns quickly
- keep matters low-key
- enable mediation between the complainant and the individual to whom the complaint has been referred

This policy ensures that we welcome compliments and provide guidelines for dealing with complaints from members of the public about our services, facilities, staff and volunteers.

2. Definitions

A compliment is an expression of satisfaction about the standard of service we provide.

A complaint is defined as any expression of dissatisfaction, however, it is expressed. This would include complaints expressed face to face, via a phone call, in writing, via email or any other method. All staff should have sufficient knowledge to be able to identify an “expression of dissatisfaction” even when the word “complain” or “complaint” is not used.

3. Purpose

We are always glad to hear from people who are satisfied with the services we offer. All compliments are recorded, acknowledged, and a copy is sent to the relevant service manager to provide feedback to the member of staff or service.

4. Complaints

The formal complaints procedure is intended to ensure that all complaints are handled fairly, consistently and wherever possible resolved to the complainant's satisfaction.

5. Responsibilities

Dolphin Stairlifts South West Ltd responsibility will be to:

- a) All members of staff are empowered to receive a complaint and take immediate and appropriate action to mitigate the prevailing circumstances.
- b) All complaints made in person shall receive an immediate response.
- c) All complaints made by telephone shall receive a response within one working day.
- d) All complaints made in writing shall receive a response within three working days.
- e) A Director shall be informed of all complaints, other than of a minor nature and he shall ensure each complaint receives a proper reply and that appropriate action is taken.
- f) Each complaint will be entered on a Customer Complaint Register.

A complainant's responsibility is to:

- g) bring their complaint, in writing, to Dolphin Stairlifts South West Ltd's attention normally within 8 weeks of the issue arising;
- h) raise concerns promptly and directly with a member of staff in Dolphin Stairlifts South West Ltd
- i) explain the problem as clearly and as fully as possible, including any action taken to date;
- j) allow Dolphin Stairlifts South West Ltd a reasonable time to deal with the matter, and
- k) recognise that some circumstances may be beyond Dolphin Stairlifts South West Ltd's control.

6. Confidentiality:

Except in exceptional circumstances, every attempt will be made to ensure that both the complainant and Dolphin Stairlifts South West Ltd maintain confidentiality. However the circumstances giving rise to the complaint may be such that it may not be possible to maintain confidentiality (with each complaint judged on its own facts). Should this be the case, the situation will be explained to the complainant.

7. Complaints Procedure:

Written records must be made by Dolphin Stairlifts South West Ltd at each stage of the procedure.

Stage 1

In the first instance, staff member(s) must establish the seriousness of the complaint. An informal approach is appropriate when it can be achieved. But if concerns cannot be satisfactorily resolved informally, then the formal complaints procedure should be followed.

Stage 2

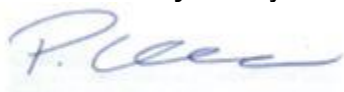
If the complaint cannot be resolved informally, the member of the public should be advised that a formal complaint may be made and the following procedure should be explained to them. It may sometimes be appropriate for a different member of staff, preferably a member of the Management Team, to make this explanation.

- a) A formal complaint can be made either verbally or in writing. If in writing the attached form should be used. If verbally, a statement should be taken by a member of the Management Team, staff member or a supervisor.
- b) If the complaint is about the staff member receiving the complaint, this must be passed on to staff members manager.
- c) After investigating the complaint. Any conclusions reached should be discussed with the staff member.
- d) The person making the complaint will receive a response based on the investigation within four weeks of the complaint being received. If this is not possible then a letter must be sent explaining why.

Roles & Responsibilities:

- Directors – To oversee customer complaint procedure.
- All members of staff – empowered to receive complaints and take immediate and appropriate action. To complete and forward reports to relevant parties.

Authorised By: Perry Carpenter



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