

Code of Practice on Complaint Handling and Dispute Resolution

Swains Plc is an independent company that delivers communication services to business customers throughout the UK. While we may not provide all the component parts of our services ourselves, we do use pre-approved suppliers for the services delivered to you. So we will liaise with our suppliers to ensure that any problems with their services are resolved promptly.

We make every effort to ensure that our customers are happy with the level of service and the products they receive from us. However, despite our best efforts, things can go wrong. We take customer complaints very seriously and aim to resolve them quickly and efficiently.

If you have a complaint about any part of our service, please contact our Customer Service Team using one of the following:

By phone: 01485 524 000

By email: client.services@swainsplc.co.uk

By letter: Customer Services, Wilson House, Saxon Way, Dersingham, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE31 6LY

If you telephone, our advisors will ask you about your complaint and seek to resolve the problem while you are on the line. During any discussions we will protect the privacy of the information that we hold on you. To do this, we may have to ask you questions to confirm that we are speaking to the right person.

If you make your complaint by email or in writing, we will acknowledge receipt, advise how and when we will next respond and provide you with a contact point for checking progress on the resolution of your complaint.

We will try to resolve your complaint quickly and efficiently, and keep you informed at all times. We normally aim to resolve complaints within 10 working days but, depending on the nature of the complaint, this is not always possible. However, if you are not happy with progress in resolving your complaint you can ask the person to whom you are speaking to escalate the matter to their manager, and ultimately to the Managing Director. If we cannot resolve the problem, we will write to you to say so.

If it has been more than 8 weeks from the date you first contacted us to complain or you have received a letter from us saying that your complaint has reached "deadlock", then you may ask for help from:

The Ombudsman Services, Brew House, Wilderspool Park, Greenalls Avenue, Warrington WA4 6HL. Tel: 0330 440 1614. Email: osenquiries@os-communications.org
Website: www.ombudsman-services.org/communications

The Ombudsman is an independent organisation which is approved by Ofcom to provide an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) service. Ofcom-approved ADR services sort out disputes between communications providers and their consumer and small business customers. Their job is to investigate complaints fairly by listening to both sides of the story. They look at the facts given to them before recommending any action that may be needed to put things right.

Alternatively, if at any time you are not satisfied with the progress of your complaint you can ask us to agree an early referral to ADR (i.e. that we issue a deadlock letter). However, we may decline to do so if we do believe we will shortly resolve your complaint and are taking active steps to do so.

Useful addresses

Ombudsman Services – Brew House, Wilderspool Park, Greenalls Avenue, Warrington WA4 6HL. Tel: 0330 440 1614
Email: osenquiries@os-communications.org
Website: www.ombudsman-services.org/communications

Ofcom - Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA. Tel: 020 7981 3040 or 0300 123 3333
email: contact@ofcom.org.uk Website: www.ofcom.org.uk

PhonepayPlus - Clove Building, 4 Maguire Street, London, SE1 2NQ. Tel: 0800 500 212 or 020 7940 7474
email: info@phonepayplus.org.uk
Website: www.phonepayplus.org.uk

Telephone Preference Service - DMA House, 70 Margaret Street, London W1W 8SS Tel: 0845 070 0707 Website: www.tpsonline.org.uk

