

Grievance Policy & PROCEDURE

Safety for Religious Guidance



Islamic Centre of England

Grievance Policy & Procedures

Approved by	Board of Trustees		
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Policy

The primary purpose of this grievance procedure is to enable staff to air any concerns that they may have about practices, policies or treatment from other individuals at work or from the Company, and to produce a speedy resolution where genuine problems exist. It is designed to help all employees to take the appropriate action, when they are experiencing difficulties, in an atmosphere of trust and collaboration.

Although it may not be possible to solve all problems to everyone's complete satisfaction, this policy forms an undertaking by the Company that it will deal objectively and constructively with all employee grievances, and that anyone who decides to use the procedure may do so with the confidence that their problem will be dealt with fairly.

This grievance procedure is not a substitute for good day-to-day communication in the Company where we encourage employees to discuss and resolve daily working issues in a supportive atmosphere. Many problems can be solved on an informal footing very satisfactorily if all employees are prepared to keep the channels of communication between themselves open and working well. This procedure is designed to deal with those issues that need to be approached on a more formal basis so that every route to a satisfactory solution can be explored and so that any decisions reached are binding and long lasting.

This grievance procedure is **entirely non-contractual** and does not form part of an employee's contract of employment.

Procedure

If you cannot settle your grievance informally, you should raise it formally. This procedure has been drawn up to establish the appropriate steps to be followed when pursuing and dealing with a formal grievance.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This grievance procedure applies to all employees of The Islamic Centre of England ("The Charity") irrespective of position, seniority, or time spent with The Charity.
- 1.2 The Charity takes any and all complaints under this policy very seriously, and shall deal with these impartially and fairly.

2. Dealing with Grievances

- 2.1 The Informal Step- If you have a grievance or complaint to do with your work or the people you work with, you should, wherever possible, start by talking it over with your manager. You may be able to agree a solution informally between you.
- 2.2 The Formal Step- If the matter is serious and/or you wish to raise the matter formally, you should set out the grievance in writing to your line manager. You should stick to the facts and avoid language that is insulting or abusive. Where your grievance is against your manager and you feel unable to approach him or her, you should talk to any member of the Trustees.

- 2.3 Whilst the Trustees of The Charity understand that most grievances will be sensitive in nature, complainants must ensure that they do not obstruct the due process by contacting / otherwise speaking with others such as potential witnesses / colleagues. This could very much affect the smooth running of any investigation, or the just process, and any follow-up action that may be required for implementation.

3. The Grievance Hearing

- 3.1 Your manager / a Trustee will call you to a meeting, normally within five days, to discuss your grievance. You have the right to be accompanied by a colleague or trade union representative at this meeting if you make a reasonable request. Please be reminded that whilst this is a serious process, we will always ensure that the hearing is conducted in a fair, empathetic, and sensitive manner.
- 3.2 After the meeting, the manager will give you a decision in writing, normally within three working days.
- 3.3 If it is necessary to gather further information before making a decision, the Trustees will inform you of this and the likely timescale involved.

4. Appeal Process

- 4.1 If you are unhappy with the decision and you wish to appeal, you should contact the designated Trustee.
- 4.2 You will be invited to an appeal meeting, normally within five days, and your appeal will be heard by all of, or the majority of, the Trustees. You have the right to be accompanied by a colleague or friend at this meeting if you make a reasonable request.
- 4.3 After the meeting, the Trustees will give you a decision, normally within seven days whose decision shall be final.

5. Stage 1

In the event of your having a formal grievance relating to your employment you should, in the first instance, put your grievance in writing and address it to your line manager, making clear that you wish to raise a formal grievance under the terms of this procedure. Where your grievance is against your line manager or if for any reason it is inappropriate for your line manager to resolve your grievance, your complaint should be addressed to the Complaints Officer. This grievance procedure will not be invoked unless you raise your grievance in accordance with these requirements.

A manager (who may not be the manager to whom your grievance was addressed) will then invite you to attend a grievance meeting to discuss your grievance and you have the right to be accompanied at this meeting by a trade union official or a fellow employee of your choice. Every effort will be made to convene the grievance meeting at a time which is convenient for you and your companion to attend. If this means that the meeting cannot be held within a reasonable period (usually within five working days of the original date set), we ask that you make arrangements with another companion who is available to attend. Any employee who is chosen to accompany another in a grievance hearing is entitled to take paid time off for this purpose.

You must make every effort to attend the grievance meeting.

At the meeting, you will be permitted to explain your grievance and how you think it should be resolved.

Following the meeting, the Company will endeavour to respond to your grievance as soon as possible and, in any case, within five working days of the grievance meeting. If it is not possible to respond within this time period, you will be given an explanation for the delay and be told when a response can be expected. You will be informed in writing of the Company's decision on the grievance and notified of your right to appeal against that decision if you are not satisfied with it.

6. Stage 2

In the event that you feel your grievance has not been satisfactorily resolved, you may then appeal in writing to the Owner within five working days of the grievance decision. You should also set out the grounds for your appeal.

On receipt of your appeal letter Owner or another Manager (who again may not be the person to whom your appeal was addressed) shall make arrangements to hear your grievance at an appeal meeting and at this meeting you may again, if you wish, be accompanied by a trade union official or a fellow employee of your choice.

You must make every effort to attend the grievance appeal meeting.

Following the meeting, the owner or another manager will endeavour to respond to your grievance as soon as possible and, in any case, within five working days of the appeal hearing. If it is not possible to respond within this time period, you will be explained the delay and be told when a response can be expected. You will be informed in writing of the Company's decision on your grievance appeal.

This is the final stage of the grievance procedure and the Company's decision shall be final.

7. Disciplinary issues

If your complaint relates to your dissatisfaction with a disciplinary, performance review or dismissal decision, you should not invoke the grievance procedure but should instead appeal against that decision in accordance with the appeal procedure with which you will have been provided.

8. Further Information

Further information concerning this Grievance Procedure or other related matters can be obtained in person or in writing at:

The Islamic Centre of England
140 Maida Vale
Kilburn
London
W9 1QB