



The GTA Complaints and Dispute Resolution Policy

This policy applies to all members of GTA (including staff, learners, employers and sub-contractors)

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1. Introduction

The Doncaster, Rotherham & District Motor Trades GTA Ltd (GTA) is committed to providing high-quality education and services to all its learners and customers as per the company's customer charter. We aim to be responsive to concerns when they are raised.

Employers, apprentices, and customers are all important stakeholders in enabling the GTA to provide high-quality training and assessment services. We welcome their feedback and cooperation to resolve issues for the benefit of the parties involved.

The GTA will use this policy when dealing with all complaints. A complaint can be defined as a statement that something is unsatisfactory or unacceptable.

2. Policy Purpose

The GTA is a provider of apprenticeships and training services and is linked to numerous awarding bodies, local authorities, and sector skills councils. The GTA would seek to resolve any complaints and/or disputes that may arise from an employer, apprentice, or privately funded course member in an appropriate and timely manner for the benefit of all concerned.

For apprenticeships, The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) require that all Training Providers provide employers and learners with a written complaint and dispute resolution policy and process. This policy addresses that requirement by setting out the framework for complaints and dispute resolution.

Action taken because of complaints will help the GTA to improve the quality of training and education.

3. Scope

This process can be used for all complaints and disputes that employers, apprentices, and privately funded learners wish to raise with the GTA about services provided.

4. Objectives

Objectives of this policy are:

- to resolve concerns at the earliest opportunity
- to ensure that the decision-making processes for complaints and disputes are fair and transparent to the complainant
- to give all parties a clear procedure for escalating concerns that cannot be resolved at the level where they arise
- use sustained complaints or disputes to improve the services offered by the GTA
- resolve the Dispute within 30 days of service of the Dispute Notice after being referred to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

5. Complaints and dispute resolution procedure - Apprentices

Where the Apprentice has an issue, dispute or complaint relating to the provision of the delivery of services undertaken by the GTA, the Apprentice shall make the matter known to the GTA in writing by email for the attention of the Chief Executive Officer at:

Email: admin@doncastergta.co.uk

Telephone: 01302 832831

The CEO will investigate the matter by this policy.

If the complaint or dispute continues for five working days or more, any party may formally refer the complaint or dispute in writing to Annette Scott (Company Director) who is the nominated contact to act on behalf of the GTA.

The referral notice should include:

- the name and job title of the nominated contact to whom the referral is being made (Annette Scott)
- sufficient details of the nature of the dispute and/or complaint
- copies of any supporting documents
- details of what steps have already been taken to resolve the dispute or complaint
- what outcome(s) the referrer would like to address the complaint or resolve the dispute
- whether there are any special circumstances which need to be considered,
- including any reasonable adjustments which any party wishes to make to the
- complaints handling process to ensure it is accessible and fair to those involved.

The GTA nominated contact will contact all the relevant parties to discuss the complaint dispute within five working days of the date of the referral being made.

5.1 Escalation of Complaints or Dispute

If the Apprentice is dissatisfied with the processing of, or response received, about any complaint submitted undertaken by the main provider the Apprentice/Apprentice Employer has the right to escalate the complaint to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). We will inform the complainant of their right to escalate any complaint if they are not happy with the outcome.

This can be done by contacting the ESFA via complaints.esfa@education.gov.uk, or putting them in a letter to:

*Customer Service Team,
Education and Skills Funding Agency
Cheylesmore House
Quinton Road
Coventry
CV1 2WT*

6. Complaints and dispute resolution procedure - Employers

Where the employer has an issue, dispute or complaint relating to the provision of the delivery of services undertaken by the GTA, the employer shall make the matter known to the GTA in writing by email for the attention of the Chief Executive Officer at:

Email: admin@doncastergta.co.uk

Telephone: 01302 832831

The CEO will investigate the matter in accordance with this policy.

If the complaint or dispute continues for a period of five working days or more, any party may formally refer the complaint or dispute in writing to Annette Scott (Company Director) who is the nominated contact to act on behalf of the GTA.

The referral notice should include:

- the name and job title of the nominated contact to whom the referral is being made (Annette Scott)
- sufficient details of the nature of the dispute and/or complaint
- copies of any supporting documents
- details of what steps have already been taken to resolve the dispute or complaint
- what outcome(s) the referrer would like to address the complaint or resolve the dispute
- whether there are any special circumstances which need to be considered, including any reasonable adjustments which any party wishes to make to the complaints-handling process to ensure it is accessible and fair to those involved.

The GTA nominated contact will contact all the relevant parties to discuss the complaint dispute within five working days of the date of the referral being made.

6.1 Escalation of Complaints or Dispute

If the employer is dissatisfied with the processing of, or response received, in relation to any complaint submitted undertaken by the main provider the Employer has the right to escalate the complaint to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). We will inform the complainant of their right to escalate any complaint if they are not happy with the outcome.

This can be done by contacting the ESFA via complaints.esfa@education.gov.uk, or putting them in a letter to:

*Customer Service Team, Education and Skills Funding Agency
Cheylesmore House
Quinton Road
Coventry
CV1 2WT*

7. Complaints and dispute resolution procedure - End Point Assessment Providers

The Employer acknowledges that the GTA does not exercise any direct control over the End Point Assessment Provider. If the Employer has a complaint about an End Point Assessment Provider, they should contact the GTA in the first instance to discuss the complaint by contacting the GTA administration at: admin@doncasterqta.co.uk or 01302 832831.

7.1 Escalation of Complaints or Dispute

If the Employer has not been able to resolve a complaint with an End Point Assessment Provider in accordance with the above, the Employer may choose to escalate the complaint or dispute using the section 'Escalation of Complaints' above.

Where the parties cannot reach a satisfactory resolution within thirty working days after commencing discussions, either party may refer the matter to mediation in accordance with the model procedure of the Centre for Dispute Resolution, London ("CEDR"), such mediation to be completed within thirty working days of signature of the CEDR Mediation Agreement.

8. Complaints and dispute resolution procedure - Sub-contractors

Where the Apprentice or Employer has an issue, dispute or complaint relating to the provision of the delivery of services undertaken by the sub-contractor, the Apprentice or Employer shall make the matter known to the GTA in writing by email for the attention of the Chief Executive Officer at:

Email: admin@doncastergta.co.uk

Telephone: 01302 832831

The CEO will investigate the matter in accordance with this policy.

If the complaint or dispute continues for a period of five working days or more, any party may formally refer the complaint or dispute in writing to Annette Scott (Company Director) who is the nominated contact to act on behalf of the GTA.

The referral notice should include:

- the name and job title of the nominated contact to whom the referral is being made (Annette Scott)
- sufficient details of the nature of the dispute and/or complaint
- copies of any supporting documents
- details of what steps have already been taken to resolve the dispute or complaint
- what outcome(s) the referrer would like to address the complaint or resolve the dispute
- whether there are any special circumstances which need to be considered,
- including any reasonable adjustments which any party wishes to make to the
- complaints handling process to ensure it is accessible and fair to those involved.

The GTA nominated contact will contact all the relevant parties to discuss the complaint dispute within five working days of the date of the referral being made.

8.1 Escalation of Complaints or Dispute

If the Apprenticeships or Employer is dissatisfied with the processing of, or response received, in relation to any complaint submitted undertaken by the main provider the Apprenticeships or Employer has the right to escalate the complaint to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). We will inform the complainant of their right to escalate any complaint.

This can be done by contacting the ESFA via complaints.esfa@education.gov.uk, or putting them in a letter to:

*Customer Service Team,
Education and Skills Funding Agency
Cheylesmore House
Quinton Road
Coventry
CV1 2WT*

9. Complaints and dispute resolution procedure - Privately Funded Courses

Where the employer has an issue, dispute or complaint relating to the provision of the delivery of services undertaken by the GTA, the employer shall make the matter known to the GTA in writing by email for the attention of the Chief Executive Officer at:

Email: admin@doncastergta.co.uk

Telephone: 01302 832831

The CEO will investigate the matter in accordance with this policy.

If the complaint or dispute continues for a period of five working days or more, any party may formally refer the complaint or dispute in writing to Annette Scott (Company Director) who is the nominated contact to act on behalf of the GTA.

The referral notice should include:

- the name and job title of the nominated contact to whom the referral is being made (Annette Scott)
- sufficient details of the nature of the dispute and/or complaint
- copies of any supporting documents
- details of what steps have already been taken to resolve the dispute or complaint
- what outcome(s) the referrer would like to address the complaint or resolve the dispute
- whether there are any special circumstances which need to be considered, including any reasonable adjustments which any party wishes to make to the complaints-handling process to ensure it is accessible and fair to those involved.

The GTA nominated contact will contact all the relevant parties to discuss the complaint dispute within five working days of the date of the referral being made.

9.1 Escalation of Complaints or Dispute

Any further dissatisfaction or dispute regarding how the complaint was handled should be raised with the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Geoff Thompson at:

Email: admin@doncastergta.co.uk

Telephone: 01302 832831