

# **GAINSBOROUGH INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

## **COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

### **Need to Complain?**

The Gainsborough Internal Drainage Board has a procedure for dealing with complaints from members of the public and others. Despite our best endeavours, we recognise that things may not always meet your expectations. We follow a standard procedure to ensure that we investigate your complaint fully and fairly, and which enables complaints to be dealt with in a consistent way.

We want to hear from you if you are unhappy with our services and want to make a complaint.

### **What is a complaint?**

A complaint is an expression of dissatisfaction, however made, about the standard of service, action or lack of action made by the Board or its staff, contractors etc, affecting an individual member of the public or other group or organisation.

### **The Steps to Follow**

1. Some complaints can be dealt with immediately, and we would like to put things right straight away if possible, rather than involve you in filling out a form and waiting for a response. So your first step if you are not happy with the way we have dealt with you is to go back to the person in the Board who handled the matter in the first place.
2. If you are still not satisfied with the way your complaint had been dealt with, then we will adopt a formal procedure in order to investigate it further. Please fill in the attached form setting out what went wrong and what you think the Board should do to put things right. Please provide as much information about your complaint as possible and include reference numbers, dates of correspondence etc.
3. We will acknowledge your complaint in writing or by phone to confirm that we have understood your concerns correctly. We will tell you who is dealing with the complaint and how they can be contacted. The person investigating your complaint will always be the Board's Administrator or Senior member of the Board.
4. We will investigate your complaint, and where possible, send a written reply to you within 15 working days of our acknowledgement (which we will send to you within two working days). If the matter requires further investigation, we will tell you the reason for the delay and when a full reply will be sent.
5. If you are not satisfied with our reply, please let us know why. If possible, we will investigate further and, where necessary, review your concerns at a more senior level in the Board. We will keep you informed of progress and provide a further reply within 15 working days of receiving your letter.

### **The Local Government Ombudsman**

If you remain unsatisfied with the way we have dealt with your complaint you may refer it to the Local Government Ombudsman, who works independently to the Board, investigating allegation of

maladministration causing injustice to the person who had complained. However, the Ombudsman will usually expect you to have tried to get your complaint settled by the Board first. Any complaint to the Ombudsman must involve more than a disagreement with the Board and needs to show something went wrong and an injustice was caused.

For example it might be maladministration if the board:

- made a mistake;
- took too long to do something;
- did not follow its own rules or the law;
- broke its promises;
- treated you unfairly;
- gave you wrong information; or
- did not make a decision in the right way - that is, if it:
  - did not follow the right procedures when making a decision;
  - did not consider all the relevant information; or
  - wrongly considered irrelevant information.

You might have been caused an injustice by the Board's maladministration if or example, you:

- did not get the service or benefit you were entitled to or there was a delay before you got it;
- suffered financial loss; or
- were put to a lot of avoidable expense, trouble or inconvenience, or suffered avoidable uncertainty or stress.

The Local Government Ombudsman might not investigate your complaint if they consider that the injustice is only slight, or if the Board had already taken, or is willing to take, satisfactory action to resolve it.

The Local Government Ombudsman has a leaflet called "Complaint to the Council? How to Complain to the Local Government Ombudsman". While the leaflet refers to councils, the same principles apply equally to IDB's. There is also a leaflet on the LGO website entitled "How the Ombudsman will deal with our complaint". You can get a copy of these leaflets by telephoning their Advice line on 0845 602 1983, or down loading them from their website on [www.lgo.org.uk](http://www.lgo.org.uk).

### **Why we want to hear from you**

Although we want to hear from you if you feel you need to complain, we like to hear any comments you have about our overall service performance. We want to provide the best possible service and our comments will help us to know what we are doing well and also what we need to improve on.

Gainsborough Internal Drainage Board  
The Gables Business Court  
Belton Rd  
Epworth  
Doncaster  
Dn9 1JL

**Tel:** 01427 875491 **Fax:** 01427 871582

**E-Mail:** [enquiries@gaitboards.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@gaitboards.co.uk)

**GAINSBOROUGH INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

The Gables Business Court, Belton Rd, Epworth, Doncaster, DN9 1JL

**Tel:** 01427 875491 **Fax:** 01427 871582

**E-Mail:** enquiries@gaitboards.co.uk

**COMPLAINT FORM**

Your Name:

Your Address, including postcode:

Your telephone number:

Your E-Mail address:

What, briefly is the nature of your complaint?

What went wrong? (Please give as much detail as you can)

What do you think the IDB should do to put things right?

**Signed**

**Date**

A copy of this form will be logged in a register by the Administrator to the Board who will identify a senior person in the Board to deal with your complaint. We will send you an acknowledgement within two working days, telling you who is dealing with your complaint. Within 15 working days of the date of that acknowledgement that person will send you, in writing, either a full response, or a progress report if more details or investigation is required.

If you are not satisfied with the reply you receive then you should write again to the above address and arrangements will be made for a further review to be carried out at a more senior level in the Board.

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:**

**Date Received:**

**Reference Number:**

**Person Dealing:**

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