



# Complaints Procedure

If you have a complaint about our organisation we want to hear about it and we will do our best to put it right.

Our Complaints Procedure has the following goals: To deal with complaints fairly, efficiently and effectively;

- To ensure that all complaints are handled in a consistent manner throughout;
- To use complaints constructively in the planning and improvement of all services.

## Who can complain?

Anyone who is:

- Receiving a service from the St Albans & District Foodbank;
- Caring for someone who has a complaint;
- A referral agency for the St Albans & District Foodbank;
- Volunteering for the St Albans & District Foodbank.

## How to complain

The St Albans & District Foodbank would like to sort out any complaint as soon as possible.

Many complaints can be resolved informally. In the first instance contact the St Albans & District Foodbank and, if you feel able, speak to the volunteer who is working with you or ask to speak to their manager, who will try to sort the matter out.

If you make contact in person or by phone, make a note of the name of the person you speak to. If a solution is offered at this point, make a note of this as well.

If you are not satisfied or do not wish an informal solution, you may pursue a formal complaint. If that is the case, write down your complaint and send it to:

The Manager  
St Albans & District Foodbank  
% 5 Browning Road,  
Harpenden,  
AL5 4TS



## **What Happens Next?**

You will receive acknowledgement of your complaint within 5 working days. You may be contacted to make sure that we have understood your complaint properly. You may be interviewed by the person investigating the complaint.

You will receive a response to your complaint within 28 working days of its receipt. Any extension of this time limit requires your consent.

## **Does this always happen?**

In all cases, a complaint will be given full and fair consideration.

However, if as a result of your complaint, disciplinary proceedings are taken against a volunteer, an internal procedure will apply. You will be informed that disciplinary proceedings have taken place, but as these proceedings are confidential, you will only be informed of the details or outcome of matters outside of this procedure.

If a criminal offence is alleged, then the police will be informed.

## **Can you have someone with you when your complaint is discussed?**

Yes, you can.

## **Can you take your complaint elsewhere?**

Yes. You can contact the Charities Commission for further information on making complaints about a charity.

<https://www.gov.uk/complain-about-charity>