



KING'S CHURCH IVER

Complaints Policy & Procedure

Primary Responsibility:	Elders/Trustees
Issued:	1 st November 2024
Review Period:	3 years
Next Review Date:	October 2027

1. Purpose

The primary purpose of this complaint's procedure is to provide a process for dealing with complaints relating to the behaviour of, or activities and decisions taken by the staff, Elders/Trustees or volunteers of King's Church Iver.

2. General Principles

Wherever possible the church would prefer to follow Scriptural principles of reconciling differences. However, on occasion, attempts to resolve an issue informally may fail or may not be appropriate. This formal complaints process is available for such cases.

3. Can I make a complaint?

Yes. You do not have to be a member of the church to make a complaint. If you believe you have reasonable grounds to make a complaint and you cannot resolve the issue informally or believe it would not be appropriate to do so, you can make a complaint.

4. What kind of complaint can I make using this procedure?

You can make a complaint about:

- The services that the church provides. For example, at Church services and Church activities and groups and baptisms. Poor service might include dirty facilities or the Elders/Trustees failing to carry out fire extinguisher tests or other health & safety requirements.
- The behaviour of a church employee, Elder/Trustee or volunteer that has affected you or someone for whom you are responsible. For example, inappropriate language or behaviour; sexual harassment or unlawful discrimination.

5. What kind of complaint is not suitable for this procedure?

- Safeguarding concerns relating to child or adult protection. Any safeguarding concern should be reported to church's safeguarding officer following the church's safeguarding procedure.

- An employment grievance. The church has a staff grievance procedure which is set out in the church's employee handbook. Employment related grievances should be dealt with in accordance with this grievance procedure.
- A complaint against an independent group or organisation that uses the church's facilities.

6. How do I make a complaint and how will the church deal with it?

You should submit your formal complaint in writing, preferably using the church's complaint form (see Appendix 1). On receipt of your complaint, the church, acting through its Elders/Trustees, will:

- Acknowledge your complaint and tell you who will review it within 7 days of receipt;
- Within 14 days, begin the review, contacting you for further information if needed; finding out what happened, when it happened, who was involved, and if necessary, interviewing people involved;
- Inform the person who is the subject of the complaint about the nature of the complaint, unless this would seriously prejudice the review;
- Recommend what remedial action, if any, should be taken, giving reasons;
- Write to you informing you of the outcome of the review.

The church may, on occasion, receive related complaints, or several people may make the same complaint. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and when each complaint is received, the Elders/Trustees may decide to consolidate the review or to deal with the earliest complaint first.

The more complex the complaint is, the longer it may take the church to respond. This is especially likely if the complaint relates to historic matters or several people need to be interviewed. Please understand that if the police investigate the person who is the subject of the complaint in relation to the same or related matters, the church may not be able to begin or complete the review until the police have completed their investigations.

Please be aware that the church may decide that it has a duty to report the matter to statutory authorities or the Charity Commission. If this is the case, the church will write to you to tell you this.

The church will treat the facts and content of your complaint carefully and in line with the church's data protection policy. However, on occasion, the church may need to make a public statement about the subject matter of a complaint, report it to statutory authorities or seek professional advice, and consequently the church cannot guarantee to keep this complaint confidential. You should maintain reasonable confidentiality as to the nature and content of your complaint, other than to seek professional advice if required. Once you have submitted your complaint and while the matter is being reviewed, you should avoid communicating with the person complained about.

7. What if I am not happy with how the church deals with my complaint?

You should write to the Elders/Trustees at the church office (King's Church Iver, West Square, Iver SL0 9NW (marked "Strictly Private & Confidential") stating that you want to appeal and the grounds for your appeal.

The Elders/Trustees will meet to determine if another Elder/Trustee or in some instances an external third party can review your appeal, and if so, how long it will take for that person to review your appeal. If the Elders/Trustees are unable to allocate someone to review your appeal, the Elders/Trustees will let you know, and advise you instead to consider contacting the Charity Commission.

An appeal should not include new evidence, unless you could not with reasonable diligence have provided that evidence when you first complained.

If you are unhappy with how the church deals with your complaint, you may choose to contact the Charity Commission (details of the procedure can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/complain-about-charity>)

8. Vexatious Complaints

If the church concludes that your complaint is vexatious and you are a church member, the church may consider exercising church discipline. If you are not a church member, the church may not answer any further complaints you make.

Signed on behalf of King's Church Iver

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Plaskett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Name: John Plaskett

Role: Elder/Trustee

Date: 1st November 2024

Appendix 1: King's Church Complaints Form

Your Details
Name:
Address:
Phone:
Email:
Details of Your Complaint
Date(s):
Person(s)
Complaint about: <i>Briefly describe the nature of your complaint</i>
Supporting Information: <i>State the matter or name of the person who is the subject of the complaint, what happened, when and where. Provide the contact details or statements of any witnesses. Include any additional information that you think would be helpful. If complaining about a decision, explain what the decision was about, when it was taken, and who made it. Explain what impact this decision has had, or you may fear will have, and upon whom. Provide any additional information that you believe would be helpful. (please use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)</i>
Have you tried to resolve this matter informally? Yes/No <i>Explain briefly why you decided not to try to resolve the matter informally.</i>
If you tried to resolve this matter informally, what happened? <i>State who you dealt with, when and where, what information you provided to them, and what you felt was unsatisfactory about the outcome.</i>
Action Sought: <i>Describe what actions you want the church to take. While the charity trustees cannot promise to do what you ask, it would be helpful to understand what you are seeking.</i>
<i>The church will treat your data carefully and in accordance with the church's data protection policy. The church cannot guarantee to keep the fact and details of your complaint confidential if it is necessary and proportionate to share your data in order to review and resolve your complaint.</i>
Date you submitted your complaint to the church: