



Guidance Notes
Making a Complaint Against the GSC

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These procedures are effective from the 11 June 2021

Introduction

The Gambling Supervision Commission (GSC) is obliged by the Gambling Supervision Act 2010 to publish a document containing the arrangements for making a complaint against the Commission as well as the procedures for handling and adjudicating such complaints.

This document contains all of the information a person needs in order to:

- Decide whether a complaint can be lodged;
- Lodge the complaint;
- Receive the outcome of the complaint; and
- Appeal its outcome if desired.

The GSC is committed to transparency and accountability in all of its activities ensuring that we act in a fair and professional manner. Complaints constitute one of a number of ways that ultimately assist the organisation to consolidate or improve its procedures, or ensure that our role is better understood.

The GSC is committed to equality and will not treat anyone less favourably due to any of the protected characteristics outlined in the [Equality Act 2017](#)

Is this the appropriate process for making a complaint?

This process should be used where the complaint refers to the conduct of any member of the Commission or the inspectorate who have acted in an official capacity.

If your complaint relates to the conduct of a gambling operator licenced by the GSC then you should use the operator complaint process which can be found in the Player Protection section of our website <https://www.isleofmangsc.com/gambling/>

If your complaint relates to the conduct of a member of the Commission, (an individual on the Board of the Commission as opposed to a GSC staff member), then the complaint should be addressed to the appointing body and not the GSC.

The appointing body under the Gambling Supervision Act 2010 is the Isle of Man Treasury Department.

If your complaint relates to a decision made by the GSC, under Schedule 4 of the [Gambling \(Amendment\) Act 2006](#) or Section 34 of the [Gambling \(Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism\) Act 2018](#), an appeal can be made to the Gambling Appeals Tribunal.

Procedures for making an appeal are set out in the [Gambling Appeals Tribunal Rules 2018](#). Appeals should be made within 21 days of notification of the original decision or where exceptional circumstances justify the delay.

How to make the complaint

A formal complaint may be made by someone who has been directly affected by the GSC's actions or has a direct involvement or interest in the subject of the complaint. Anonymous complaints will not be accepted.

To make a complaint, it must be made in writing and addressed to the Chief Executive. The complaint may be made in an e-mail if preferred. In either case, the correspondence should be clearly marked with the words "formal complaint"; using this as a prefix to the subject line of an e-mail will allow it to be quickly isolated and given priority.

You should write to:

The Chief Executive
The Isle of Man Gambling Supervision Commission Ground Floor, St George's Court
Myrtle Street Douglas
Isle of Man IM1 1ED

Our e-mail address is gaming@gov.im

Please include the following information in order for your complaint to be fully understood—

- Full name & address
- Contact details
- Confirmation that you have a direct involvement or interest in the complaint
- Date of the complaint
- Description of the complaint

The complaints procedure

A complaint must be made within 12 months of the date on which the complainant became aware of the event that is the subject of the complaint, unless good reason for the delay can be evidenced.

When the GSC receive a formal complaint, we will acknowledge its receipt by corresponding with you via post or e-mail, as indicated by your preference, or in the absence of a preference, using the method that you used to contact us.

The complaint will be investigated by a senior member of staff or by a commission member, who is independent of the matter being complained about. Complaints will be acknowledged within 5 working days and the GSC will endeavour to complete the investigation of the complaint within 28 working days. If the investigation cannot be completed within that period, the GSC will provide an update within 28 working days and will advise of the revised period for completing the investigation.

On completion of our investigation, we will send you a report. Our report will advise if your complaint has been upheld and if so what steps will be taken to remedy the situation. If your complaint has been rejected, we will advise why.

All complaints are treated in confidence as far as possible and personal data will be processed in accordance with the [GSC's privacy policy](#).

If you feel the complaint has been incorrectly handled

As before, your correspondence should be clearly marked as a 'formal complaint'. The review report will either—

- a) Conclude the complaint is upheld – you will be notified by the Chief Executive of the steps that follow this decision which may result in the original complaint being recognised or in the original complaint case being re-opened and re-examined further; or
- b) Conclude the complaint is not upheld – you will be notified and the complaint will be closed.

The GSC is defined as a “relevant supervisor” under section 3(3) of the Tynwald Commissioner for Administration Act 2011, and with reference to paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 to that Act, is outside scope of review by the Tynwald Ombudsman. If following a review the complainant is still not happy about the outcome or the way the complaint was handled they may still submit a petition of doleance to the Isle of Man courts.

Reasonable adjustments and alternative formats

The GSC is committed to equal opportunities and our aim is to make our complaints policy easy to use and accessible to all of our customers.

We will take reasonable steps to accommodate any reasonable adjustments required under the Equality Act 2017 to enable you to access this policy or receive responses to complaints in other formats. Please contact us if you need us to provide this information to you in a different way.