



VTS Complaints Policy

How to contact us

On our website, click on 'Contact VTS'.

Alternatively, call our national phone number: **0303 445 8100**

Our address is:

Valuation Tribunal Service
2nd Floor
120 Leaman Street
London
E1 8EU

For general enquiries: appeals@valuationtribunal.gov.uk

Chief Executive's Office: ceo.office@valuationtribunal.gov.uk

For complaints: complaints@valuationtribunal.gov.uk

Our website address is: www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk

Queries, concerns and complaints

We are committed to providing a quality service and want to get things right, however we recognise that sometimes they do go wrong. Wherever possible we will aim to handle your concerns quickly at your first point of contact. You can raise your queries or concerns by telephone, email or post and a member of staff will assist you.

If you contact us about the administrative process associated with the handling of your appeal, such as delay, lack of response or discourtesy, our staff will try to sort out your problem as a matter of urgency. If you are not happy with our service at the hearing, please tell a member of staff who will try to sort out your concerns there and then.

If you remain dissatisfied with any aspect of our administrative service, we have introduced a formal administrative complaints process.

Please note that the VTS may only consider complaints about matters reflecting our administration and/how you have been dealt with by our staff.

This complaints process cannot be used if you disagree with the decision the Tribunal makes, or if you are aggrieved with the conduct of the hearing. Tribunal decisions are binding and the VTS has no power to change them.

How can I raise a formal complaint?

Set out your complaint by completing the formal complaints form.

The formal [administrative complaints form](#) can be accessed online through our website.

The Complaints Team will initially review your complaint and send you an acknowledgement within one week. A member of staff will then contact you to try and resolve the complaint as quickly as possible.

In cases of a more serious nature, the **Director of Operations & Development** will investigate your complaint and send a full response within one month. If for some reason this is not possible, you will be notified of any delay.

If you feel that the issue raised in your complaint has not been properly considered or remedied by the Director of Operations & Development, you may ask the **Chief Executive** to investigate any maladministration by email at complaints@valuationtribunal.gov.uk. You must give reasons why you believe the response provided by the Director of Operations & Development fails to address the issue originally raised. Please note no additional concerns can be included for investigation by the Chief Executive, any other issues need to be submitted as a new complaint.

You will receive an acknowledgement within one week. The Chief Executive will investigate how your complaint was dealt with and send a full response within one month. If for some reason this is not possible, you will be notified of any delay.

What can I expect as a resolution to my complaint?

Where we uphold complaints, our remedies include:

- an explanation of the event and an apology
- reviewing or improving staff training or revising guidance material (where applicable)

In most cases, an explanation and an apology will be an appropriate response.

Please note that the Tribunal **does not** award costs, whatever the outcome.

What if I am still not satisfied?

At any time, you can ask your Member of Parliament to look into the matter or, having been through our complaints process, you can ask them to refer your complaint to the Parliamentary & Health Service Ombudsman for investigation.

What the VTS cannot do

If your complaint is about an issue that was raised more than 12 months ago, we cannot deal with it.

Judicial Complaints

Complaints in relation to the conduct of the Members of the Valuation Tribunal for England (VTE), who hear and decide appeals is initially a matter for the President of the Tribunal, and ultimately for the Lord Chancellor.

You **cannot** use the judicial complaints process if your complaint is solely about the decision made by the members or reasoning underlying the decision, as these are judicial matters that may be the subject of an appeal or an application for judicial review.

There is limited scope for a review of a decision by the President on prescribed grounds. Information about this is set out in the VTE [Consolidated Practice Statement](#).

Where your complaint is in relation to a Tribunal Member(s) having behaved improperly at a hearing, for example they have been discourteous, used offensive or inappropriate language, or have sat despite having a conflict of interest, you should write to the President of the VTE at the address below. He will investigate the complaint and, if substantiated, will deal with the matter himself or refer it to the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office for consideration by the Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice. Matters covered include:

- the members' personal conduct in and outside the hearing room

- comments made by a member in the course of proceedings which are not directly integral to the judicial decision or underlying reasoning and which might lower public confidence in the judiciary.

President of the Valuation Tribunal for England
2nd Floor
120 Leaman Street
London
E1 8EU

Email: president@valuationtribunal.gov.uk