

BOARD'S RESPONSE TO THE ANNUAL COMPLAINTS PERFORMANCE AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT REPORT

On 3rd January 2025 the Board received:

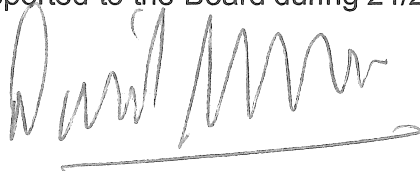
- The 23/24 annual complaints performance and service improvement report for residents living in homes owned and managed by Major Housing Association.
- An update to the complaints policy for residents living in homes owned and managed by Major Housing Association to meet the requirements of the new Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code 2024
- A self-assessment against the new Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code 2024

The Board has a Member Responsible for Complaints (MRC) who provides additional assurance to the Board on the effectiveness of Major Housing Association's complaints system. The MRC and the Board have considered and approved the self-assessment that Charity complies with all aspects of the Housing Ombudsman's Complaint Handling Code 2024.

Throughout the year the Board has challenged the data and information provided to the Board. Major Housing Association adopts the Housing Ombudsman's definition of a complaint as any expression of dissatisfaction. This gives the Board assurance that Major Housing Association are recording an accurate volume of complaints, as the Board does not believe that a low volume of complaints would be a positive sign. A new complaints management system has been in place throughout 23/24. This has provided the Board with additional assurance on the accuracy of data on complaint handling.

One of Major Housing Association's values is 'we learn'. As a small provider owning and managing 73 homes the Board considers a summary of each complaint and the lessons learned from individual complaints. Given our size, Major Housing Association does not have enough complaints to learn from trends. But our learning from individual complaints shows that communication is a key factor across complaints. Training, expectations, and systems have all been improved during 23/24. The Board will monitor the feedback on communication through the individual complaints reported to the Board during 24/25.

Signed:



Position:

C. F. O.

Dated:

6/1/2025

We refused to accept complaints regarding Anti-social Behaviour (ASB). This is because we have a separate ASB Policy and Procedure which deals with this. Copies of which are available from our office, or by contacting the clerk or complaints officer by phone or by email.

If we refuse to accept a complaint, we will always write to you and explain the reasons why in line with the Complaints Handling Code.

6. Complaints Escalated to the Housing Ombudsman Service

During this period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024, we had no complaints cases escalated or referred to the Housing Ombudsman Service.

7. Compliance with the Code

We complied with the complaint handling code and had no Ombudsman intervention.

8. Learning & Service Improvements

Whilst we received no formal complaints, we do not take this for granted.

We recently completed our tenant perception surveys and have used the feedback from these surveys to ensure that our Complaints Policy and Procedure is easily accessible for all tenant members and that they know how to access it.

We have provided some more detailed information in Section 10 of this report.

9. The Housing Ombudsman Service

We include the Housing Ombudsman Service's contact information in all our correspondence relating to services, to actively encourage tenants to use the service or access the Ombudsman service for assistance.

Residents should be aware that you do not have to have a formal complaint ongoing to seek advice and support from the Ombudsman service.

The Housing Ombudsman can be contacted in the following ways:

Web: www.housing-ombudsman.org.uk

Email: info@housingombudsman.org.uk

Post: Housing Ombudsman Service
PO Box 1484
Unit D
Preston
PR2 0ET

Tel: 0300 111 3000

10. Access to our Complaints Policy and Procedure

We try to ensure that complaints are resolved at the first point of contact, via telephone on. If you remain dissatisfied, a formal complaint can be made.

Residents can access our Complaints Policy and Procedure and self-assessment against the Code in the following ways: