

How do I make a complaint?

You can make a complaint in person, by letter, email, phone or fax. You may wish to download our Complaints Form (at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/complaints.asp) or ask us to send one to you.

You can also have somebody make a complaint on your behalf, or call a staff member to write out a complaint for you.

When complaining you should tell us:

- Your full name and address
- As much as you can about the complaint
- What has gone wrong
- How you want us to resolve the matter.

We would also like to know what you would like to happen as a result of your complaint.

How long do I have to make a complaint?

Normally, you must make your complaint no later than 6 months after the event you want to complain about.

In exceptional circumstances, we may be able to accept a complaint after the time limit. If you feel that the time limit should not apply to your complaint, please tell us why.

Can I remain anonymous?

Complaints can be made anonymously but you should provide us with as much information as possible to enable us to investigate. Please state when contacting us if you would like to remain anonymous and no record of your name will be attached to our files.



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Inverness. IV3 8NW

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Fax: 01463 725067
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**CROFTING COMMISSION
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COMPLAINTS:

FOR WHEN THINGS
GO WRONG

This is a summary of our complaints procedure. You can download the full version from our website:

www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Our complaints process

The Crofting Commission's complaints handling procedures are a vital part of ensuring continual improvement to our customer service.

What is a complaint?

We regard a complaint as any expression of dissatisfaction about our action or lack of action, or about the standard of service provided by us or on our behalf.

What can complaints be about?

- Delays in responding to your enquiries and requests
- Failure to provide a service
- Our standard of service
- Failure to follow our policy
- Treatment by or attitude of a member of staff
- Our failure to follow proper procedure.

Your complaint may involve more than one service or be about someone working on our behalf.

What can't complaints be about?

- A routine first time request or enquiry
- Action being taken by another organisation
- Previous complaints where a final decision has been made
- A disagreement where a right of appeal already exists, including those to the Scottish Land Court
- A request for compensation only.

Who can make a complaint?

Anyone who is affected by the work of the Crofting Commission can make a complaint. That includes representatives of those affected by what we do.

What happens next?

We will always tell you who is dealing with your complaint. Our complaints procedure has two stages.

Stage One – Frontline resolution

- We aim to fix problems as soon as possible.
- Decision will be given within five working days or less.
- If a solution cannot be found, the complaint will be taken to Stage 2.

Stage Two – Investigation

- We will acknowledge your complaint within three working days of receipt.
- Where appropriate, we will discuss your complaint with you to understand why you remain dissatisfied and what outcome you are looking for.
- A full response will be issued as soon as possible but no later than 20 working days.
- If longer is needed to investigate the complaint thoroughly, we'll keep you updated.

What if I'm not satisfied with the outcome?

If you remain dissatisfied after our investigation, you have the right to seek an independent review from the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO).

Any complaints referred to the SPSO will have been thoroughly investigated by the Crofting Commission first.

The SPSO will assess whether there is evidence to suggest service failure or maladministration not identified by the Crofting Commission. They're the final stage for complaints about most organisations that provide public services in Scotland, including the Crofting Commission.

How to contact the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO)

You can phone the SPSO directly on 0800 377 7330, contact them electronically via www.spsso.org.uk/contact-us or send them a letter addressed to:

SPSO, Freepost, EH641, Edinburgh EH3 0BR
You can also contact them in person at SPSO, 4 Melville Street, Edinburgh, EH3 7NS.

Getting help to make a complaint

We understand that you may be unable, or reluctant, to make a complaint yourself. We accept complaints from the representative of a person who is dissatisfied with our service. We can take complaints from a friend, relative, or an advocate, if you have given them your consent to complain for you.

You can find out about the advocates in your area by contacting the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance.

Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance

Tel: 0131 260 5380

Fax: 0131 260 5381

Online: www.siaa.org.uk

We are committed to making our service easy to use for all members of the public.

If you have trouble putting your complaint in writing, or want this information in another language or format, such as large font, or Braille, please tell us.

You can call us on **01463 663450**

or email us at info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk.