

Complaints Policy

We are committed to providing a high-quality legal service.

We acknowledge that we may not always get it right, so if something has gone wrong, including in relation to our charges, we need you to tell us. This will help us to improve our standards of service.

How do I make a complaint?

You can contact us in writing (by letter or email) or by telephone.

In the first instance, it may be helpful to contact the person who is working on your case to discuss your concerns, and we will do our best to resolve any issues. If you do not feel able to discuss your concerns with them, please contact the person responsible for the overall supervision of your matter, who will be named in the client care letter we sent you at the beginning of your matter.

If you do not feel able to raise your concerns with either of these people, or you are unsatisfied with their response, please contact our Legal Director who deals with complaints and whose contact details are:

Name :	Mark Scott
Address:	Hansells Solicitors Cambridge House 26 Tombland, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 1RE
Email:	complaints@hansells.co.uk
Telephone:	01603 751984

To help us to understand your complaint, and in order that we do not miss anything, please tell us:

your full name and contact details.

what you think we have got wrong.

how you would like your complaint to be resolved; and

your file reference number (if you have it).

If you require any help in making your complaint we will try to help you.

How will you deal with my complaint?

We will write to you within three working days acknowledging your complaint, enclosing a copy of this policy.

We will investigate your complaint. This will usually involve:

- reviewing your complaint.

- reviewing your file(s) and other relevant documents; and

- liaising with the person who dealt with your matter.

We may also need to ask you for further information or documents. If so, we will ask you to provide the information within a specific period of time.

We will update you on the progress of your complaint at appropriate times.

We may also, if appropriate, invite you to a meeting to discuss your complaint. You do not have to attend if you do not wish to or if you are unable to. We will be happy to discuss the matter with you by telephone.

We will write to you at the end of our investigation to tell you what we have done and what we propose to do to resolve your complaint. Where possible, we will aim to do this within 28 days of the date of our letter of acknowledgement.

What to do if we cannot resolve your complaint

We have eight weeks to consider your complaint. If we have not resolved it within this time, you may be able to complain to the Legal Ombudsman. This applies if you are an individual, a business with fewer than 10 employees and turnover or assets not exceeding a certain threshold, a charity or trust with a net income of less than £1m, or if you fall within certain other categories (you can find out more from the Legal Ombudsman—www.legalombudsman.org.uk). The Legal Ombudsman will look at your complaint independently and it will not affect how we handle your matter.

Before accepting a complaint for investigation, the Legal Ombudsman will check that you have tried to resolve your complaint with us first. If you have, then you must take your complaint to the Legal Ombudsman:

- within six months of receiving a final response to your complaint.

and

- no more than one year from the date of the act or omission being complained about; or

- no more than one year from the date when you should reasonably have known there was cause for complaint.

If you would like more information about the Legal Ombudsman, please contact them.

Contact details

Visit: www.legalombudsman.org.uk

Call: 0300 555 0333 between 10.00 to 16.00

Email: enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk

Legal Ombudsman PO Box 6167, Slough, SL1 0EH

The Legal Ombudsman service is free of charge.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) bodies exist which are competent to deal with complaints about legal services. We have, however, chosen not to adopt an ADR process.

Data protection complaints

If your complaint relates to the way in which we have collected, used, stored, disclosed, retained or otherwise handled your personal data, we will treat this as a data protection complaint.

Data protection complaints will be handled under this complaints policy, unless we tell you otherwise. We will acknowledge your complaint within three working days of receipt and will investigate and respond to you as soon as reasonably practicable. In any event, we will provide our response within eight weeks of receiving your complaint.

Our Data Protection officer is:

Name :	Jane Stockings
Address:	Hansells Solicitors Cambridge House 26 Tombland, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 1RE
Email:	JaneStockings@hansells.co.uk
Telephone:	01603 751982

Where your complaint relates to personal data, we may need to ask you for further information to help us understand your concerns. We may also need to verify your identity.

Our Privacy policy provides further information about how we handle personal data and explains your rights as a data subject, including your rights of access, rectification, erasure, restriction, objection and data portability, where applicable. A copy of our Privacy policy is available on our website or on request.

If you remain dissatisfied with the way we have handled a data protection complaint, you may complain to the Information Commissioner's Office, which is the UK supervisory authority for data protection matters.

You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Website: www.ico.org.uk

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Where a complaint includes both a concern about our legal service and a concern about how we have handled personal data, you may have the right to refer the service element of your complaint to the Legal Ombudsman and the data protection element to the Information Commissioner's Office.

What to do if you are unhappy with our behaviour

The Solicitors Regulation Authority can help if you are concerned about our behaviour. This could be for things like dishonesty, taking or losing your money or treating you unfairly because of your age, a disability or other characteristic.

Visit its website to see how you can raise your concerns with the [Solicitors Regulation Authority](http://www.sra.org.uk).

What will it cost?

We will not charge you for handling your complaint.

Please note that if we have issued a bill for work done on the matter, and all or some of the bill is not paid, we may be entitled to charge interest on the amount outstanding. This is explained in our Terms of Business.