

# Complaints Policy and Procedure

Gateshead Foodbank is committed to delivering a high standard of service to anyone who engages with our work.

We believe that the best way to improve our service is by learning from the people who use it. We welcome comments, compliments and complaints from clients, referral agencies, volunteers and anyone else we come into contact with in our work. These help us to see what we are doing well and where we can make improvements.

We aim to promote an environment where people are encouraged to raise and discuss issues informally and, where necessary, seek solutions to prevent them developing into problems or complaints.

However, we recognise that there may be situations where people are not happy with the outcome of an informal discussion or feel that the issue needs to be taken further. In these cases, Gateshead Foodbank has a complaints procedure so that we can work towards a resolution in a fair and transparent manner.

## Philosophy

Gateshead Foodbank undertakes to ensure that:

- Making a complaint is as straightforward as possible.
- Complaints are dealt with promptly, courteously, and discreetly, with information shared on a 'need to know' basis only.
- We will respond decisively, outlining a clear outcome of our investigation.
- We will learn from complaints and use them to make improvements in the way we work.

**Gateshead Foodbank**  
**Registered Charity No: 1161395 | Reg. in Eng. & Wales | ICO No: ZA152053**

Reviewed Feb 2026

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The policy and procedure are accessible to all regardless of age, disability, gender, ethnicity, belief or sexual orientation. If you require a copy of this policy in an alternative format, please contact us using any of the contact details in the section below.

# How to register a complaint or give feedback

If you have a complaint or would like to share a concern, compliment or comment on any aspect of our service, you can contact us in one of the following ways:

- In person to staff/volunteers at the food bank (in writing)
- By email: [info@gateshead.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@gateshead.foodbank.org.uk)
- By post: Jackie Beeley - Chair of Trustees,  
Gateshead Foodbank, Davidson Building,  
Swan Street,  
Gateshead,  
NE8 1BG

Please tell us what your comment or complaint is about and what you would like to see happen as a result. Please also tell us how we may contact you. If you choose to remain anonymous, we will not be able to request further information or respond.

## Complaints process

1. We will acknowledge your complaint within five (5) working days of receipt, and provide you with the name of the person responsible for investigating the matter on your behalf.
2. The person responsible for the investigation will write to you with their findings and proposed resolution within twenty-one (21) working days from receipt of the complaint\*.
3. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation, you may appeal or escalate your concerns to the details above. Letters must be received within twenty one (21) working days of the date on the correspondence notifying you of the outcome of the first investigation.
4. The complaint will be reinvestigated, and you will be informed of the outcome within ten (10) working days\*.

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*\*Unless the complaint is particularly complex or time-consuming, in which case you will be kept informed of the progress of the investigation and notified of the expected date of completion.*

Wherever possible, Gateshead Foodbank will respect your confidentiality. Any information about the complaint will usually only be shared with those who need to know in order to help resolve it. There may, however, be occasions when we cannot provide absolute confidentiality, for example, in circumstances where a child or adult with additional support needs may be at risk of harm.

You can access further information on how we handle your data here:

<https://gateshead.foodbank.org.uk/data-protection/privacy-policy/>

Davidson Building, Swan Street  
Gateshead, NE8 1BG

[info@gateshead.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@gateshead.foodbank.org.uk)

[gateshead.foodbank.org.uk](http://gateshead.foodbank.org.uk)

Gateshead Foodbank is a registered charity in England & Wales (1161395). ICO No: ZA152053