**THE HIGHLAND AND WESTERN ISLES VALUATION JOINT BOARD**

**QUARTERLY COMPLAINTS REPORT 1 JUNE 2024 – 31 AUGUST 2024**

The Highland & Western Isles Valuation Joint Board (HWIVJB) is committed to providing high quality customer services and we value complaints and use information from them to help us improve our services. In April 2021, the HWIVJB published its updated Model Complaints Procedure and under the requirements of the Scottish Public Sector Ombudsman quarterly reports on performance are circulated to the senior management team but also published on our website.

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.

Further information on our complaints handling procedure can be found on our website (see [HWIVJB Complaints Procedure](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20001/the_highland_and_western_isles_valuation_joint_board/461/the_highland_and_western_isles_valuation_joint_board/5)).

**Key Performance Indicators**

Indicator 1 – the total number of complaints received

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| **Complaints received** | |
| Total number of complaints received at stage 1 (including escalated complaints) | 7 |
| Total number of complaints received in the period at stage 2 | 5 |
| Total number of complaints received in the period | 12 |

Indicator 2 – the number and percentages of complaints at each stage that were closed in full within the set timescales of 5 and 20 working days

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| **Complaints closed in full within set timescales** | |
| Total number of complaints closed in the period | 12 |
| Number of complaints closed at stage 1 within 5 working days | 6 |
| Number of complaints closed at stage 2 within 20 working days | 3 |
| Number of complaints closed after escalation within 20 day working days | 1 |

Indicator 3 – the average time in working days for a full response to complaints at each stage

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| **Average time in working days for full response** | |
| Average time in working days to respond to complaints at stage 1 | 1.83 days |
| Average time in working days to respond to complaints at stage 2 | 14.6 days |
| Average time in working days to respond to complaints after escalation | 20 |

Indicator 4 – the outcome of complaints at each stage

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| --- | --- |
| **Complaints Outcomes (upheld, partially upheld, not upheld or resolved)**  **at stage 1 as a percentage of all complaints** | |
| Number of complaints upheld at stage 1 | 0 |
| Number of complaints partially upheld at stage 1 | 0 |
| Number of complaints not upheld at stage 1 | 4 |
| Number of complaints resolved at stage 1 | 2 |
| **Complaints Outcomes (upheld, partially upheld, not upheld or resolved)**  **at Stage 2 as a percentage of all complaints** | |
| Number of complaints upheld at stage 2 | 0 |
| Number of complaints partially upheld at stage 2 | 2 |
| Number of complaints not upheld at stage 2 | 0 |
| Number of complaints resolved at stage 2 | 3 |
| **Complaints Outcomes (upheld, partially upheld, not upheld or resolved)**  **after escalation as a percentage of all complaints** | |
| Number of complaints upheld after escalation | 0 |
| Number of complaints partially upheld after escalation | 0 |
| Number of complaints not upheld after escalation | 0 |
| Number of complaints resolved after escalation | 1 |

**Lessons learnt from complaints handling**

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| All the complaints received in this period related to electoral registration and in particular, procedures followed at the UK Parliamentary General Election held on 4 July 2024. Six complaints were dealt with at stage 1 and were either not upheld or resolved. This is where correct legal procedures were followed by the ERO. One complaint was dealt with as a stage one complaint but was escalated to stage 2. This was resolved after investigation was carried out.  Five complaints were dealt with at stage 2. Three were resolved as the ERO had carried out correct steps in terms of procedures followed. Two complaints were partially upheld. One complaint was regarding advice given over the telephone by ERO and Returning Officer staff. A training issue was identified and will be discussed with staff at an election feedback meeting to be held on 2 October 2024. The final complaint related to registration information being sent to a minor and was partially upheld as the name was spelt incorrectly on the form. An instruction has been sent to all electoral staff to remind them to double check communications before being issued. |