

Patient Complaints Procedure

It is our aim at Ashlow Orthodontic Practice to always have satisfied patients, to meet your expectations of care and service and to resolve any complaints as efficiently, effectively and politely as possible. We take complaints very seriously, investigating them in a full and fair way and take great care to protect your confidentiality. We learn from complaints to improve our care and service. We will never discriminate against patients who have made a complaint and will be happy to answer any questions you may have about this procedure.

If you are not entirely satisfied with any aspect of our care or service please let us know as soon as possible to allow us to address your concerns promptly. We accept complaints made verbally as well as written complaints.

Elaine Spender is the Complaints Manager and will be your personal contact to assist you with any complaints. She will **acknowledge your complaint in writing within 3 working days** and will aim to provide a full response in writing **as soon as practical**.

You can send your complaints to **Ashlands Avenue, Hartshill, Stoke-on-Trent.ST4 6BN** or call us on **01782 662290** or e-mail **ashloworthodonticpractice@gmail.com**.

If the Complaints Manager is unavailable, we will take brief details about the complaint and will arrange for a meeting when it is suitable for you and the practice. We will keep comprehensive and confidential records of your complaint, which will be stored securely and only be accessible by those who need to know about your complaint.

If the complaint investigation takes longer than anticipated the Complaints Manager will contact you at least every ten working days to keep you informed of the reason for any delays, the progress of the investigation and the proposed date it will be completed.

When the investigation has been completed, you will be informed of its outcome in writing. We will make our response clear, addressing each of your concerns as best we can. You will also be invited to a meeting to discuss the results and any practical solutions that we can offer to you. These solutions could include replacing treatment, refunding fees paid, referring you for specialist treatments or other solutions that meet your needs and resolve the complaint.

We regularly analyse patient complaints to learn from them and to improve our services. That's why we always welcome your feedback, comments, suggestions and complaints. If you are dissatisfied with our response to a complaint you can take the matter further, please see the contacts below.

If you do not feel you can raise a complaint about your NHS service directly with us, you can address your complaint directly to NHS England at england.contactus@nhs.net with 'FAO complaints team' in the subject line.

Contacts

For private dental treatment you can contact the GDC private dental complaints service within 12 months of the treatment or within 12 months of becoming aware of the issue by calling 020 8253 0800 or visiting www.dentalcomplaints.org.uk

If you are still unhappy about your NHS complaint, you can contact The Parliamentary Health Ombudsman (England) by calling 0345 015 4033 or visiting www.ombudsman.org.uk .

You can also contact the Care Quality Commission (CQC) who regulate private and NHS dental care services in England by calling 030000616161 who may be able to help.



The General Dental Council is responsible for regulating all dental professionals. You can complain using their online form at www.gdc-uk.org contact them on information@gdc-uk.org or by calling 020 7167 6000, but has no responsibility to investigate complaints.

