

## COMPLAINTS HANDLING POLICY AND PROCEDURE

### **Our complaints handling policy**

We want you to be completely satisfied with the work we do for you and the service we provide. When something goes wrong, we need you to tell us about it so that we can put matters right. This will also help us to improve our standards.

Your complaint will be dealt with promptly (within 8 weeks), fairly, openly, free of charge, effectively, and based on a sufficient investigation of the circumstances.

### **How do I make a complaint?**

You can make your complaint or expression of dissatisfaction about any aspect of our service in writing, by email, over the telephone or in person to Scott Bowley.

21 South Street  
Bridport  
Dorset DT6 3NR

Telephone: 01308 555632

Email address: [scott.bowley@porterdodson.co.uk](mailto:scott.bowley@porterdodson.co.uk)

### **Our procedure for handling complaints**

1. Our complaints procedure is flexible to suit you and the circumstances and nature of your complaint. Normally however we:
  - read the file and speak with the advisor concerned about the complaint;
  - give a preliminary decision;
  - invite you to reply to the preliminary decision (which can either be a meeting or a written reply).
2. At the end of the complaints procedure we will make a decision on your complaint and provide you with what we consider is the appropriate remedy.

### **What if I am dissatisfied with the outcome?**

You have a right to complain to the Legal Ombudsman, an independent complaints body, established under the Legal Services Act 2007, that deals with legal services complaints. You will have six months from the date our final letter in which to complain to the Legal Ombudsman. It must also be no more than 6 years since the reason for your complaint, and no more than 3 years since you became aware of that reason to complain.

Please note that this service is only available to consumers and very small businesses, charities and clubs.

Legal Ombudsman  
PO Box 6806  
Wolverhampton  
WV1 9WJ

Telephone: 0300 555 0333

Email address: [enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk)

Website: [www.legalombudsman.org.uk](http://www.legalombudsman.org.uk)

Alternative complaints bodies (such as ProMediate, [www.promediate.co.uk](http://www.promediate.co.uk)) exist which are competent to deal with complaints about legal services should both you and our firm wish to use such a scheme.

We do not usually agree to use such a scheme because the Legal Ombudsman was established specifically to deal with legal services complaints and in any event will seek in the first instance to facilitate an informal resolution between the parties.