

Personnel and Employment Problems

Factsheet

Introduction

This factsheet is about complaints relating to personnel and employment problems. It should be read together with our '[How to Complain](#)' webpage, available on the 'Making A Complaint' tab.

The factsheet is mainly for employees of public bodies in Wales, who may have an employment-related problem and who are considering making a complaint to us.

What we can do

We can consider complaints about the following:

- recruitment procedures; and,
- appointment procedures.

Our role in looking at complaints relating to employment matters is limited to these two areas.

What we cannot do

We cannot look into complaints about employment matters such as the following:

- Disciplinary procedures;
- Grievance procedures;
- Decisions to terminate employment whether by dismissal or redundancy;
- Pay or other benefits in kind, such as a company car or loans for season tickets;
- Pensions;
- Sick pay and maternity pay;
- The way the body treats its staff, such as entitlement to leave maternity or paternity leave;
- Bullying in the workplace;
- Work-related health problems;
- Disagreements about the scope and terms of your employment;
- Industrial disputes, such as a strike or work-to-rule.

Many complainants will have the right to go to an Employment Tribunal to try to resolve their grievances.

Issues to bear in mind

Whilst there are limits to the types of complaints about employment and personnel matters that we are able to investigate, we can still investigate complaints made by a Council employee as a service user in relation to services they receive from the council, for example problems with education, housing or social services. These complaints can be looked at in the usual way, regardless of the fact that the complainant is an employee of the Council.

If you are an employee (or member of the Council) and you have a complaint about the services that the council provides to you, you should read the relevant fact sheet for that type of complaint.

We may consider whistleblowing complaints about elected members of local authorities in Wales. See our [Code of Conduct – General Information](#) factsheet for information on our role.

We also have the power to undertake Own Initiative investigations about public bodies in Wales. See our '[Own Initiative Investigations](#)' webpage on the 'About Us' tab for information on our role and our Criteria for deciding whether such an investigation should be undertaken in the public interest.

Further information

Personnel and employment problems often involve complicated legal issues and you should get appropriate advice.

- **ACAS** provides free and impartial information and advice to employers and employees on all aspects of workplace relations and employment law:
<http://www.acas.org.uk/>
- If you are a member of a Trade Union you should contact the Union directly as it may be able to help you.

- **The Citizens Advice** can provide free advice. You can find the nearest branch in the telephone directory and the website includes an employment advice section:
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/wales/>

- Many solicitors are able to give you advice on personnel and employment problems; however, there is normally a charge for this advice.

We are independent and impartial; we cannot order public bodies to do what we recommend – but, in practice, they almost always do.

Examples of cases that we have looked at can be found on our website, under the ‘Publications’ tab on the ‘[Our Findings](#)’ page.

Contact us

If you are unsure whether we would be able to look into your complaint, please [contact us](#) on 0300 790 0203 or ask@ombudsman.wales

Also available in Welsh.

This document is available in Welsh and English. You can write to us in Welsh and we will reply in Welsh. This will not lead to a delay in responding.

ask@ombudsman.wales

0300 790 0203 Our phone line is open 10am-12:30pm and 1:30pm-4pm Monday – Friday