

Atkin Chambers & Atkin Chambers Limited GDPR Complaints Procedure

1. Introduction

1.1 The UK General Data Protection Regulation (“UK GDPR”), the Data Protection Act 2018 (“DPA 2018”), and the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (“PECR”) (together, the “Data Protection legislation”), give data subjects and applicable third parties rights in relation to personal data. This procedure details how Atkin Chambers (“AC”) and Atkin Chambers Limited (“ACL”) will respond to complaints from data subjects and third parties relating to the use of personal data.

Who are Data Subjects?

1.2 Data subjects are any natural living individuals whose personal data AC/ACL processes (collects, obtains, stores, retains, disposes of etc.) Data subjects can include lay and professional clients, potential clients, about individuals who feature in the matter in respect of which the barristers are asked to provide legal services, witnesses and experts, opponents, other barristers with whom we are working, court staff, members of the judiciary, others ancillary to actual or potential proceedings, prospective pupils and mini-pupils, staff, applicants for employment, contractors and sub-contractors, visitors and individuals captured by ACL’s CCTV cameras.

Data Subjects’ Rights

1.3 Under Data Protection Legislation, data subjects have the right to the following and these rights can be exercised at any time:

- Information about the processing of their data
- Access to their own personal data
- To correct personal data
- Erase personal data, also known as the right to be forgotten
- Restrict data processing
- Object to data processing, including direct marketing
- Receive a copy of their personal data or transfer their personal data to another data controller
- Not be subject to automated decision-making and rights in relation to profiling
- Be notified of a data security breach

What is a Complaint?

1.4 A complaint is an expression of dissatisfaction about AC/ACL’s handling of a data subject’s personal data or the data of the individual they represent. This can also include dissatisfaction with how AC/ACL has responded to a previous data request, such as those detailed under 1.3.

2. Scope

- 2.1 This procedure addresses complaints made by data subjects regarding the use of their personal data. Complaints may be made in relation to any aspect of AC/ACL's processing of personal data including individual rights requests.
- 2.2 This procedure also addresses complaints made by third parties in relation to AC/ACL's use of personal data. These may be for example in relation to AC/ACL's response to a data related request from a third party, such as the Police or Local Government Agencies.
- 2.3 This procedure should also be followed for complaints in relation to use of personal data for direct marketing and/or profiling activity.

3. Responsibilities

- 3.1 The Data Protection Manager has overall responsibility for this procedure, including the day-to-day responsibility for overseeing its implementation. All relevant members of staff have been made aware of the procedure and have received appropriate training.
- 3.2 All Employees/Staff are responsible for ensuring that any complaints that are made in relation to this procedure are reported to the Data Protection Manager (GDPR@atkinchambers.com) and for cooperating with the Data Protection Manager in reviewing these complaints.
- 3.3 The Data Protection Manager will review the procedure from time to time (and at least every two years) to ensure provisions continue to meet AC/ACL's legal obligations and reflect best practice.

4. Making a Complaint

- 4.1 Data subjects and third parties may make a complaint relating to AC/ACL's use of personal data. Complaints should be sent directly to the Data Protection Manager at GDPR@atkinchambers.com . The Data Protection Manager will normally acknowledge the complaint within 5 working days. AC/ACL reserves the right to extend the period needed for response during holiday and Chambers closure.
- 4.2 Although a complaint may be brought at any time, there may be limits as to what AC/ACL can do in historic cases.
- 4.3 AC/ACL will only accept a complaint from a data subject's representative if the representative provides the data subject's written consent authorising the representative to act on the data subject's behalf in relation to the complaint.
- 4.4 If there is any doubt about the identity of the complainant, the Data Protection Manager will first seek to verify the data subject's identity or third party's entitlement to act on behalf of the individual. The forms of identification that are acceptable from a data subject are as follows:
 - Passport
 - Driving Licence
 - For third parties, the identification requirements will vary depending on their relationship to the data subject. Therefore, these will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

5. Investigation and Complaint Outcome

- 5.1 Once all identification requirements have been met, the investigation will be carried out normally within 20 working days. If further clarification is required from the complainant or more time is required for the response to be completed, AC/ACL will inform the complainant prior to the original deadline.
- 5.2 The complaint outcome will be communicated to the complainant in writing, normally by email.

6. Review

- 6.1 If the complainant does not agree with the outcome, they can request a review of the decision. This request must be made within 1 month of the original decision being communicated and should be sent to the Data Protection Manager at GDPR@atkinchambers.com. The decision will be internally reviewed by the Data Protection Manager and the Chief Executive Officer normally within 20 working days from the receipt of the request for review.
- 6.2 Once the internal review has been completed, AC/ACL will communicate the outcome in writing, normally by email.

7. Independent External Review

- 7.1 If the complainant remains dissatisfied, they can escalate their complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office (the "ICO"). Information about how to make a complaint to the ICO can be found here: [Make a Complaint: ICO](#).
- 7.2 In order to respond to the complaint, the Data Protection Manager will investigate the complaint based on the information provided by the ICO. This may necessitate access to personal data and other information held across AC/ACL. The cooperation of any staff members able to assist with the investigation will be required. The reason for the investigation may need to be disclosed to the relevant staff members. The Data Protection Manager will draft and submit a response to the ICO in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer.
- 7.3 In the absence of the Data Protection Manager, the Chief Executive Officer will appoint another appropriate member of staff to carry out the investigation and respond to the ICO.

8. Manifestly unfounded, abusive, vexatious or excessive correspondence and complaints Independent External Review

- 8.1 In some scenarios, we can refuse to handle the complaint. This will be when a complaint is deemed to be manifestly unfounded, abusive, vexatious or excessive. Each complaint will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The following factors will be taken into consideration:
 - The data subject has explicitly stated that they intend to cause disruption (whether in the complaint, or in other correspondence, and has threatened individuals;
 - The data subject has made unsubstantiated accusations against individuals, and is persisting in those accusations;
 - The data subject is targeting particular individuals, against whom they have a personal grudge;
 - The data subject makes frequent complaints intended to cause disruption; and

- The data subject continues to repeat the substance of previous complaints which have already been investigated.
- 8.2 Where a complaint is deemed to be manifestly unfounded, excessive, abusive or vexatious, AC/ACL will contact the individual and in a reasonable timeframe explain to them:
- The reasons for refusing to consider the complaint;
 - Their right to make a complaint to the ICO; and
 - Their right to pursue their data subject rights through a judicial remedy.

9. Use of Data from Complaints

- 9.1 AC/ACL will collect data on complaint outcomes at each stage of this procedure and any complaints submitted by complainants to any regulators (including the ICO), and use the data:
- Internally for reporting, evaluation, learning and training; and
 - Externally for discussion with regulators.
- 9.2 The data used by AC/ACL for the purposes set out in paragraphs 9.1 will be anonymised. Your personal data and sensitive personal data (“Personal Data”) as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018 (the “DPA”) may be disclosed to AC/ACL’s members of staff and regulators only for the purpose of dealing with your complaint, or a complaint arising out of it and/or implementing any recommendations. Personal data will not be shared with any other third parties unless AC/ACL has your express consent, has a statutory obligation to do so, or is otherwise permitted to do so under the DPA.

Policy Approved on: **23 January 2026** and will be reviewed every two years.