



## CREA Norfolk Grievance Procedure

Latest version: November 2024

### 1. Introduction

The grievance procedure enables the Company to ensure that any problems, complaints or concerns raised by employees are dealt with in a fair, timely and consistent manner. If an employee has a grievance or complaint regarding:

1. their work, working conditions, pay and benefits, working hours; or
2. discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, disability, age, gender reassignment, marital status or ethnic origin; or
3. treatment by colleagues including harassment and bullying; or
4. their health and safety or a breach of statutory employment rights; or
5. any other issue affecting their employment, it should be raised in line with this procedure.

Complaints in respect of disciplinary action taken by the Company should be dealt with as an appeal under the disciplinary procedure.

### 2. Informal Procedure

1. Employees should, where possible, discuss the grievance or complaint with their immediate Project Lead on an informal basis first. The Project Lead will discuss any concerns with the instructors and attempt to resolve the matter within a reasonable timescale. Where it is not possible for the employee to talk to their immediate Project Lead, or if the grievance concerns him or her, the instructors should instead talk to the next most senior people who are the Board of Directors.
2. Where the informal procedure is used, both parties should keep a written record of the meeting including what was discussed and any proposed action.
3. If the grievance has not been resolved or cannot be settled informally, the matter should be dealt with in accordance with the formal grievance procedure.

### 3. Formal Grievance Procedure:

1. Written Statement

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1. The aggrieved Instructor must first send a written statement detailing the nature of the grievance to the Project Lead without unreasonable delay.
2. Where it is the Project Lead who is the subject of the Grievance, the Instructor should instead send the written statement to Board Directors, where possible.
2. Grievance Meeting
  1. Upon receiving the written statement, the Instructors Project Lead will arrange for a formal meeting to be held in order to discuss the grievance. The formal meeting will be held without unreasonable delay and usually no longer than 5 working days after the statement of grievance is received.
  2. The meeting must not take place if the Project Lead has not had a reasonable opportunity to consider their response to the information.
  3. Before the meeting, a thorough investigation of the facts relating to any allegations must take place. Any requests for anonymity and confidentiality should be taken seriously.
  4. The Instructor may, following a reasonable request, be accompanied by a colleague, a suitably certified trade union representative or an official employed by a trade union. The companion may not, however, answer questions on behalf of the Instructor.
  5. The Instructors chosen companion will be able to address the meeting to put or sum up the Instructor's case, as well as confer with the Instructor during the meeting. They may not, however, answer questions on the Instructor's behalf, address the meeting if the Instructor does not wish them to do so or prevent the Company from explaining their case.
  6. The Company reserves the right to refuse to accept a companion whose presence may undermine the grievance process.
  7. The Project Lead, Instructor and their companions shall make every effort to attend the meeting. If the Instructor fails to attend the grievance hearing without explanation or seems to make insufficient efforts to attend, then the hearing may proceed in the Instructor's absence.
  8. If possible, the Instructor should explain how they think the grievance could be resolved.
  9. If a further investigation of the matter is required, then the meeting should be adjourned to a later date before a decision is taken about how to deal with the Instructor's grievance.

## 4. Outcome of meeting

1. Following the meeting and investigation and without unreasonable delay, the Project Lead shall set out in writing the outcome of the hearing and any action they intend to take to resolve the grievance (if appropriate).
2. The Project Lead shall also inform the Instructor of their right to appeal if they are not satisfied with the action taken.

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3. Any action taken shall be monitored and reviewed, as appropriate, to ensure it effectively deals with the issue.

### 5. Appeal

1. Instructor's have the right to appeal where they feel their grievance has not been satisfactorily resolved
2. The request for an appeal must state the grounds for the appeal and should be submitted to the Project Lead or Board of Directors in.
3. The Project Lead will arrange a further meeting to discuss the appeal within a reasonable time of receiving the request for an appeal. The Instructor will be informed of the time and place of the appeal in.
4. The appeal will be dealt with impartially and, wherever possible, will be chaired by a member of the Board of Directors who has not previously been involved in the case and is of increased seniority to the one who dealt with the original grievance. This appeal hearing is not a re-hearing of the original appeal but a consideration of the specific areas of dissatisfaction in relation to the original grievance.
5. The Instructor has the right to be accompanied at the appeal meeting and the outcome of the appeal meeting shall be communicated to the employee in writing within 5 working days. Decisions made at this point are final and the grievance procedure is concluded.

### 6. Confidentiality

1. Grievances will be handled with as high a degree of confidentiality as is practicable.
2. Confidential records of the grievance will be kept in the Instructor's personnel file in accordance with GDPR legislation. Copies of meeting notes will be provided to the Instructor, although the Company reserves the right to withhold certain information (e.g. to protect a witness).

### 7. Special Cases

1. Where a grievance is raised during the disciplinary process, the disciplinary process may be suspended so the grievance can be dealt with first.
2. The above procedure shall not be used for collective grievances.
3. [A separate procedure can be referred to for issues involving bullying, harassment or whistle blowing.]

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Signatures of Directors November 2024