

Complaints Policy and Procedure

Document Summary

Policy Responsibility:	The Incumbent and Wardens
Document Manager:	The PCC Secretary
Policy Applies to:	any stakeholder in the life of the church of St James-the-Less, Iron Acton.
Status of Policy:	Non-contractual
Version Number:	1.0
Document Status:	Approved
Date Last Approved:	N/A
Date of Next Review:	June/July 2026
Frequency of Review:	Annually
Model Policy?	Yes
Physical Copy in Church?	Yes
On Church Website	Yes

Amendment History

Version	Amendment Date	Author	Amendment Summary
0.1	26/06/2025	Ben Thompson	First Draft
1.0	27/08/2025	Ben Thompson	Approved by PCC

Version control guide:

- 0.1 (1st draft version)
- 0.2 (2nd draft and so on..... 0.3. 0.4 etc)
- 1.0 (Once document has been approved)
- 1.2 (during review/approval of a lifecycle document i.e. policies)
- 2.0 (2nd approved document) and so on.

Preamble

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is committed to its role which primarily includes *“cooperation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.”* But there may be a time when you need to complain. This complaints procedure is for those who are unhappy about matters for which the PCC is responsible that have affected them. Prior to using this formal procedure the PCC encourages an informal approach to the Vicar or a Churchwarden to see if the matter can be resolved in that way.

But if your complaint is about:

Safeguarding of Children or Vulnerable Adults; please in the first instance contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser at [insert contact details].

The Vicar or another minister; please raise the matter with the Vicar. If the matter remains unresolved you could contact the Archdeacon, at christopher.bryan@bristoldiocese.org. You may wish to read the leaflet “I have a complaint about misconduct by a member of the clergy – what can I do?” at <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/1937470/makingcomplainta4.pdf>.

Your employment by the PCC; if you are a PCC employee please refer to and follow the grievance procedure provided for in your terms and conditions of employment.

Making a complaint to the PCC

Complaints should be made in writing or by email to the PCC Secretary whose name and contact details are set out below. The PCC Secretary will ensure that your complaint is:

- treated seriously
- handled fairly without bias or discrimination
- treated confidentially.

You should complain within 3 months of the event that you are complaining about. You need to set out:

- your full name and address
- what you think went wrong and how it has affected you including enough details to show why you are aggrieved
- what (if anything) you think the PCC should do to put it right

If someone else complains on your behalf, the PCC will need written confirmation from you saying that you agree for that person to act for you.

The PCC Secretary should immediately record receipt of a complaint in a log.

How your complaint will be dealt with

The PCC Secretary will write to you or send you an email to confirm receipt of your complaint within [X] days of its receipt and arrange for it to be considered by the PCC’s Complaints Committee. If your complaint refers to particular individuals who are members of the Complaints Committee it will meet without them being present.

The PCC’s Complaints Committee will look fairly into your complaint including seeking the views on the matter from any individuals, whether members of the PCC or otherwise, to which your complaint refers. The Complaints Committee may appoint one or more persons to look into the

matter on its behalf but it will be the Complaints Committee that makes any decisions. The Complaints Committee and any such appointed persons will treat the matter confidentially.

The Complaints Committee may invite you to present your complaint to them. If so, you may attend with a friend / representative if you wish. The meeting should be held as informally as possible. The Chair will explain the purpose of the meeting, introduce the members and emphasise confidentiality. The meeting will be minuted by the Committee.

The PCC Secretary will write to you with the conclusions from the PCC Complaints Committee's review and reasons for that outcome. The PCC Secretary will aim to respond to you in this way as soon as possible, and no longer than 6 weeks after receipt of your complaint.

This will be the PCC's final response to your complaint.

If you remain dissatisfied, you may wish to consider contacting the Charity Commission as while Parochial Church Councils are independent bodies they are charities and as such are regulated by the Charity Commission. The Charity Commission can be contacted either via their website <https://www.gov.uk/complain-about-charity> or by writing to them at Charity Commission First Contact, PO Box 1227, Liverpool L69 3UG.

PCC Secretary
Name & Address
Tel Number & email

PCC of The Parish of St James-the-Less, Iron Acton
A charity excepted from registration.