

## THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

ACADEMIC COUNCIL: 1 MARCH 2023

### SPSO COMPLAINTS HANDLING UPDATE: QUARTER 1 (OCT-DEC) 2022/23

The Glasgow School of Art is subject to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman's (SPSO) model Complaints Handling Procedure.

The Complaints Handling Procedure divides complaints into Stage One (for routine, frontline complaints) and Stage Two (for more complex complaints). Stage One complaints should be resolved within five working days. Stage Two complaints should be resolved within twenty working days. Following the outcome of an investigation at Stage Two, complainants can ask the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman to review their complaint.

The Academic Quality Office co-ordinates Scottish Public Services Ombudsman complaints at GSA, linking closely with Schools and Professional Support areas. This includes logging incoming complaints, advising on process and liaising with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman. The Academic Quality Office will allocate complaints for investigation at Stage Two according to an approved list of investigators. Investigators will be agreed in conjunction with line managers.

Issues raised through the Quality Assurance Agency Scotland's Scottish Concerns Scheme are managed and reported through the office of the GSA Deputy Director Academic.

The remainder of the reporting cycle for 2022/23 will cover Q2 (Jan-Mar), Q3 (Apr-Jun) and Q4 (Jul-Sept).

#### REQUESTS RECEIVED

Compared with the previous year, there has been an increase in Quarter 1 complaints at both Stage One and Two.

	Q1 2021/22	Q1 2022/23
Stage One	2	9
Stage Two	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>

#### RESPONSE TIMES

44% of Stage One responses and 50% of Stage Two responses were delayed in Quarter 1 2022/23. As of 16 February 2023, the average response time at Stage One was 13.1 working days (against a target of 5 working days). The average response time at Stage Two was 33.5 working days (against a target of 20 working days). Where responses are delayed, the Academic Quality Office and investigators endeavour to keep complainants up to date with revised timescales in line with requirements set out in the GSA Complaints Handling Procedure.

Compared with the previous year, there has been an increase in late responses.

	Q1 2021/22	Q1 2022/23
Stage One On Time	2	5
Stage One Late	0	4
Stage Two On Time	0	1
Stage Two Late	0	1

## COMPLAINT OUTCOMES

The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman requires that GSA record all complaints as Upheld, Partially Upheld, Not Upheld, or Resolved. Resolution is defined as an outcome in which both GSA and the complainant agree an outcome without the need to determine whether a complaint is upheld or not.

	Q1 2021/22	Q1 2022/23
Stage One Upheld	0	1
Stage One Partially Upheld	0	2
Stage One Not Upheld	0	0
Stage One Resolved	2	6
<b>Stage Two</b>		
Stage Two Upheld	0	0
Stage Two Partially Upheld	0	1
Stage Two Not Upheld	0	0
Stage Two Resolved	0	0

## COMPLAINTS BY AREA

The following table sets out the areas in which complaints originated from Quarter 1 2022/23, the total for the year to date and the overall full-year total for the previous year. Areas with more than 5 complaints in a quarter or more than 10 in a year are highlighted.

Complaints marked as 'Other' for the quarter originated from Strategy & Marketing; GSA China Office;

If Heads of School or Professional Support areas require any further information about the complaints in their areas, the Academic Quality Office will be happy to provide it.

Area	2022/23					2021/22
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Total
School of Design	1				1	2
School of Fine Art	0				0	4
School of Simulation & Visualisation	1				1	1
Mack. School of Architecture	0				0	2
Innovation School	2				2	1
Learning Resources	0				0	0
Technical Support	0				0	2
Academic Registry	1				1	4
Student Support & Development	1				1	0
Research	0				0	0
Estates	0				0	0
Student Residences	1				1	3
Open Studio	0				0	0
IT	0				0	0
Finance	1				1	2
GSA-wide	1				1	0
Other	0				0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>				<b>9</b>	<b>27</b>

## COMPLAINT THEMES

To aid reflection and alignment, the Academic Quality Office categorises complaints according to National Student Survey headings. Additionally, Dignity & Respect and Sexual Misconduct categories have been

added. Please note that where a complaint references more than one area this is recorded. Therefore, the overall theme count is higher than the number of complaints received. The current categories are:

- Teaching: e.g. courses are interesting, stimulating and challenging.
- Learning Opportunities e.g. opportunities to explore ideas/concepts in depth; to apply learning; and to draw on information/ideas from a wide range of topics.
- Assessment and Feedback e.g. transparency of marking criteria; fairness, timeliness and helpfulness of assessment/feedback.
- Academic Support e.g. contact/communication with academic and support staff; advice/guidance relating to courses, study choices etc.
- Organisation and Management e.g. organisation/smooth-running of courses, and communication of changes to courses/teaching/studio access.
- Learning Resources: e.g. access to and quality of studios/learning spaces; technical resources; library/archives; IT support etc.
- Learning Community: e.g. opportunities for student collaboration; sense of staff/student body community.
- Student Voice: e.g. student welfare; solicitation and value of student feedback.
- Dignity and Respect: e.g. staff misconduct, racism, and other related.
- Sexual Violence

The following table sets out the themes from Quarter 1 of 2022/23, the total for the year to date and the overall full-year total for the previous year. Themes with more than 5 complaints in a quarter or more than 10 in the year are highlighted.

Complaints categorised as ‘Dignity & Respect’ for the quarter included complaints relating to staff misconduct and reasonable adjustments. Complaints categorised as ‘Other’ included complaints relating to remote learning, the GSA website, the GSA estate and the application process.

Theme	2022/23					2021/22
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Total
Teaching	0				0	0
Learning Opportunities	0				0	0
Assessment & Feedback	2				2	0
Academic Support	4				4	4
Organisation & Management	2				2	2
Learning Resources	1				1	2
Learning Community	0				0	0
Student Voice	2				2	2
Dignity & Respect	3				3	11
Sexual Misconduct	0				0	0*
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>				<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>

\*Complaints relating to Sexual Violence were recorded with Dignity & Respect complaints prior to Quarter 1 2022/23 – as such comparative data for last year is not available.

**Academic Quality Office**  
**16 February 2023**