

Customer Complaints Handling Procedure

Handling your complaints
on our east coast route

24 June **2018**



Contents

1	Welcome	3
2	Complaint or Feedback	3
3	Publicity	4
4	Monitoring and Reporting	4
5	Training and Development	6
6	Reviewing this Policy	7
	Network Map	Back cover

1

Welcome

Welcome to London North Eastern Railway (LNER). This Customer Complaints Handling Procedure explains how we differentiate between feedback and a complaint, our monitoring and reporting arrangements, how we use feedback and complaints to improve our services and how we develop our teams managing such contacts.

For details about how to submit a complaint and an explanation of that process, please refer to our policy document 'How we will deal with your complaint' which is available from all staffed stations our trains call at or from our website LNER.co.uk

2

Complaint or Feedback

A complaint is defined as; "any expression of dissatisfaction by a customer or potential customer about service delivery by the company or its agents, and/or about company or industry policy". We classify any comments that meet this definition as a complaint.

Our customer services team receive training on how to correctly log a complaint on our system and that includes how to separately classify a complaint and feedback. Both our customer services and social media teams are trained to probe further when they receive negative feedback to help determine whether these communications are complaints.

All complaints and feedback are gratefully received and used to help improve our services. This policy document explains specifically how we process complaints.

3

Publicity

Customer information notices are displayed in each LNER train. The notices contain a LNER route map and contact details of our customer services team and of Transport Focus and London TravelWatch.

Our Timetable booklets contain advice on how to make comments and complaints, and also include details of Transport Focus and London TravelWatch. These are available from every staffed station where our trains call.

Our website, LNER.co.uk also has full details of the complaints handling process as well as all the relevant contact details you may require.

4

Monitoring and Reporting

MONITORING

Calls and correspondence dealt with by our customer services team are regularly monitored by dedicated Quality Managers within our customer contact Centre on an ongoing basis. Each customer services representative within the team will have an average of 2 cases monitored every week. This is to ensure all complaints are handled in a friendly and personal manner, all points raised are suitably addressed and any compensation is awarded in a consistent way.

Later in the year we will be introducing Customer Feedback Surveys which help us understand and improve all channels where we interact with our customers, including the processing of complaints and feedback.

Our customer services team have internal targets to deliver an excellent service to our customers, and we monitor these targets at management review meetings every four weeks. Our response times range between 3 and 10 working days, they vary depending on the volume and complexity of the correspondence received.

REPORTING

We always welcome complaints and feedback from customers. Our Customer Experience Management team, within which our customer services team sit, share the information throughout our management team to help inform decisions made to make changes and improvements to our service. We use the information for our managers to cascade key messages to their teams,

specifically in relation to local issues so our people are empowered to make the changes to benefit customers from local communities.

Our frontline managers receive daily reports on complaints relating to onboard catering (including the catering teams), guards, cleanliness and station people. This allows us to investigate and resolve issues promptly and facilitates a culture of continuous improvement.

Every four weeks we provide comprehensive reports which contain all complaints, praise and suggestions made by customers within the previous period. This helps locally with strategy planning and decision making to improve our customer experience.

A summary of comments and complaints is also provided to our Customer Experience Board to help inform strategic decisions made across the business. This board is chaired by our Customer Experience Director and has senior leadership representation from across the company.

The information also forms part of the Customer Experience Board report, which is submitted to our board of directors every four weeks to ensure the information reaches all levels of the organisation.

Finally, every four weeks we submit a report or provide information to the Department for Transport, the Office of Rail and Road, Transport Focus and London TravelWatch which details such things as the quantum of complaints, complaint categories and our performance in dealing with them, as measured by such things as response times.

Where there is a sudden or unexpectedly large increase in the volume of complaints meaning the 10-working day target to process complaints is at risk, we will inform the Office of Rail and Road, Transport Focus and London TravelWatch. Within this notification we will include the reason for the increased correspondence, any mitigation plans, the procedures to ensure the quality of responses is maintained as well as any steps taken to advise our customers.

While our aim is to respond to all correspondence within 10 working days, in line with the guidance issued by the ORR, we are committed to responding to at least 95% within 20 working days.

When we receive a complaint that cannot be resolved face to face or straight away by our Social Media team, we record the complaint and contact details on our dedicated Customer Relations Management (CRM) system. Electronic records will be retained for 6 years and hard copies, such as written letters we receive, will be retained for 6 months.

5

Training and Development

We are committed to ensuring our people have the knowledge, skills and are empowered to deal with a complaint about our services. Customer service training is provided in a regular and structured way and we only recruit individuals that have the right skills and behaviours.

In addition to the ongoing training for all our customer facing people, where policies or process change or where we have identified a training need, additional action will be taken. This may include additional training or briefing either for a specific team or just an individual.

Our customer services team, who handle all our complaints, receive specific training on our Regulated commitments such as those detailed in this procedure, the Passenger's Charter or our DPPP. This is in addition to more tailored training such as letter writing, complaints investigation and resolution skills.

6

Reviewing this Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually and or more frequently changes made when appropriate. Any proposed changes will only be made when approved by the regulator, the Office of Rail and Road, following consultation with Transport Focus and London TravelWatch.

Contact details for these three organisations are as follows:

Transport Focus

Freepost RTEH-XAGE-BYKZ

PO BOX 5594

Southend on Sea SS1 9PZ

Telephone: **0300 123 2350**

Fax: **08458 501 392**

Email: advice@transportfocus.org.uk

Website: transportfocus.org.uk

London TravelWatch

169 Union Street

London

SE1 0LL

Telephone: **020 3176 2999**

Fax: **020 3176 5991**

Email: enquiries@londontravelwatch.org.uk

Website: londontravelwatch.org.uk

Office of Rail and Road

One Kemble Street

London

WC2B 4AN

Telephone: **020 7282 2018**

Email: contact.cct@orr.gsi.gov.uk

Website: orr.gov.uk

Weekday Service



LNER.co.uk

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