

Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh Complaints Policy

Purpose of this document Individuals and organisations have the right to express their views about the performance of Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh and the way in which it conducts its business.

Anyone who is dissatisfied with any aspect of the service received by Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh can make a complaint under Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh complaints policy. We will treat both concerns and complaints in the same way.

This Policy does not cover:

- 1) *Complaints or concerns about the NHS, which should be dealt with through the NHS complaints procedure.*
- 2) *Complaints about the provision of social care services which should be dealt with by Wigan Council complaints procedures.*

We will review this policy on a regular basis.

How to raise a concern or make a complaint about Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh

- 1) In the first instance we would encourage you to raise a concern, or complaint, or to provide feedback on our service informally. Providing information or correcting misunderstandings or misconceptions at this early stage may enable the issue to be successfully resolved.
- 2) If the concern or complaint is not resolved to your satisfaction, then you should notify us via email, letter or via a telephone conversation with the Chief Officer.
- 3) Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh will acknowledge the concern/complaint in writing (or in the complainant's preferred method of communication) within 3 working days.
- 4) Attempts to resolve the concern/complaint will be completed within 15 working days of establishing the nature of the concern/complaint. Exceptionally, if further time is needed, where possible this will be agreed with you.
- 5) The Chair of Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh will review all concerns/complaints. If you are not happy with the outcome you will be able to appeal. The concern/complaint will then be reviewed by Healthwatch Wigan and Leigh Board members who have not previously been involved in the matter.

Once the appeal process has been completed the concern/complaint will be closed.

Review dates: