Code	Code requirement	Comply:	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
provision		Yes / No		
1.2	A complaint must be defined as:	Yes	The code definition is used in the	
	'an expression of dissatisfaction, however		Customer Feedback Policy at 3.2.	
	made, about the standard of service, actions			
	or lack of action by the landlord, its own staff,			
	or those acting on its behalf, affecting a			
	resident or group of residents.'			
1.3	A resident does not have to use the word	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy	
	'complaint' for it to be treated as such.		3.5: A customer does not have to use	
	Whenever a resident expresses		the word 'complaint' for it to be	
	dissatisfaction landlords must give them the		treated as such.	
	choice to make complaint. A complaint that			
	is submitted via a third party or			
	representative must be handled in line with			
	the landlord's complaints policy.			
Code	Code requirement	Comply:	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
provision		Yes / No		
1.4	Landlords must recognise the difference	Yes	The Customer Feedback Policy	
	between a service request and a complaint.		covers service requests/issues at	
	This must be set out in their complaints		3.4/3.6.	
	policy. A service request is a request from a		Service requests are recorded and	
	resident to the landlord requiring action to		monitored in MRI, with trends	
	be taken to put something right. Service		reviewed by the Learning from	
	requests are not complaints, but must be		Feedback Group (LFFG).	
	recorded, monitored and reviewed regularly.			
1.5	A complaint must be raised when the		See One View case records	
	resident expresses dissatisfaction with the			
	response to their service request, even if			
	the handling of the service request remains			
	ongoing. Landlords must not stop their			
	efforts to address the service request if the			
	resident complains.	1	1	1

1.6	An expression of dissatisfaction with services made through a survey is not defined as a complaint, though wherever possible, the person completing the survey should be made aware of how they can pursue a complaint if they wish to. Where landlords ask for wider feedback about their services, they also must provide details of how residents can complain.	Yes	TSM perception survey respondents who express dissatisfaction are made aware by Acuity (who undertake the survey for Acis) of how they can pursue a complaint if they wish to.	
	Exclusions			
Code provision	Code requirement	Comply: Yes / No	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
2.1	Landlords must accept a complaint unless there is a valid reason not to do so. If landlords decide not to accept a complaint they must be able to evidence their reasoning. Each complaint must be considered on its own merits.	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 3.2: We will accept all complaints unless there is a valid reason not to do so.	
2.2	A complaints policy must set out the circumstances in which a matter will not be considered as a complaint or escalated, and these circumstances must be fair and reasonable to residents. Acceptable exclusions include: The issue giving rise to the complaint occurred over twelve months ago.	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 3.2	

	 Legal proceedings have started. This is defined as details of the claim, such as the Claim Form and Particulars of Claim, having been filed at court. Matters that have previously been considered under the complaints policy. 			
Code	Code requirement	Comply:	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
provision		Yes / No		
2.3	Landlords must accept complaints referred to them within 12 months of the issue occurring or the resident becoming aware of the issue, unless they are excluded on other grounds. Landlords must consider whether to apply discretion to accept complaints made outside this time limit where there are good reasons to do so.	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 3.3	
2.4	If a landlord decides not to accept a complaint, an explanation must be provided to the resident setting out the reasons why the matter is not suitable for the complaints process and the right to take that decision to the Ombudsman. If the Ombudsman does not agree that the exclusion has been fairly applied, the Ombudsman may tell the landlord to take on the complaint.	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 3.2 We will accept all complaints unless there is a valid reason not to do so. If we decide not to accept a complaint, a detailed explanation will be provided, setting out the reasons why the matter is not suitable for the complaints process.	

			Where a matter has been raised by an Acis Resident Customer, if we decide not to accept a complaint we will explain your right to take our decision to the Housing Ombudsman. This can be evidenced by related correspondence.	
2.5	Landlords must not take a blanket approach to excluding complaints; they must consider the individual circumstances of each complaint.	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 3.3	
Section 3:	Accessibility and Awareness	l		
Code provision	Code requirement	Comply: Yes / No	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
3.1	Landlords must make it easy for residents to complain by providing different channels through which they can make a complaint. Landlords must consider their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and anticipate the needs and reasonable adjustments of residents who may need to access the complaints process.	Yes	Complaints are received in person, over the telephone, in writing, by email, and digitally (website and social media, MyAcis). Evidenced by OneView case recording. Ease of making a complaint is assessed as part of the post-closure survey (as reported to the Operations Committee at each cycle). Customer Feedback Policy confirms: We recognise that we must comply with the Equality Act 2010 and may need to adapt normal policies, procedures, or processes to accommodate an individual's needs.	

3.2	Residents must be able to raise their complaints in any way and with any member of staff. All staff must be aware of the complaints process and be able to pass	Yes	Our policy commits to the application of our Reasonable Adjustments Policy in the management of complaints, where necessary and appropriate. Customer Feedback Policy 3.6	
Code	details of the complaint to the appropriate person within the landlord. Code requirement	Comply:	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
3.3	High volumes of complaints must not be seen as a negative, as they can be indicative of a well-publicised and accessible complaints process. Low complaint volumes are potentially a sign that residents are unable to complain.	Yes / No Yes	Complaint numbers are monitored – see report to Operations Committee + content in Home News Complaints process publicised:	
3.4	Landlords must make their complaint policy available in a clear and accessible format for all residents. This will detail the two stage process, what will happen at each stage, and the timeframes for responding. The policy must also be published on the landlord's website.	Yes	The Customer Feedback Policy is available on the website and would be provided in hard copy format or alternative format (as assessed as reasonable) on request. It details the two stage process and timescales which accord with the Complaint Handling Code.	

3.5	The policy must explain how the landlord will publicise details of the complaints policy, including information about the Ombudsman and this Code.	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 4.1	
3.6	Landlords must give residents the opportunity to have a representative deal with their complaint on their behalf, and to be represented or accompanied at any meeting with the landlord.	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 2.2 Advocates or representatives can make complaints on behalf of our customers providing we have written consent from the customer.	
3.7	Landlords must provide residents with information on their right to access the Ombudsman service and how the individual can engage with the Ombudsman about their complaint.	Yes	Content:	
	Complaint Handling Staff	1		
Code	Code requirement	Comply:	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
provision		Yes / No		
4.1	Landlarda muat hava a naraan ar taam	1 1/00	Customer Complaints Co andinator	
	Landlords must have a person or team assigned to take responsibility for complaint handling, including liaison with the Ombudsman and ensuring complaints are reported to the governing body (or equivalent). This Code will refer to that person or team as the 'complaints officer'. This role may be in addition to other duties.	Yes	Customer Complaints Co-ordinator Liaison with the HO undertaken by Customer Complaints Co-ordinator via the Housing Ombudsman Portal Head of Customer Operations is responsible for complaints reporting to the Operations Committee at each cycle.	

4.3	Landlords are expected to prioritise complaint handling and a culture of learning from complaints. All relevant staff must be suitably trained in the importance of complaint handling. It is important that complaints are seen as a core service and must be resourced to handle complaints effectively.	Yes	Complaints are managed within code timescales as reported to the Operations Committee. Learning from Feedback group identifies and manages learning. Annual Training Must Do's complaints management video for staff on the intranet. Complaints management resourced through the Complaints and Escalations Officer post.	
	The Complaint Handling Process			
Code	Code requirement	Comply:	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
provision		Yes / No		
5.1	Landlords must have a single policy in place for dealing with complaints covered by this Code. Residents must not be treated	Yes	All complaints are dealt with in accordance with the Customer	
	differently if they complain.		Feedback Policy.	
5.2	differently if they complain. The early and local resolution of issues between landlords and residents is key to effective complaint handling. It is not appropriate to have extra named stages (such as 'stage 0' or 'informal complaint') as this causes unnecessary confusion.	Yes	There is no Stage 0 or informal complaint categorisation in the Customer Feedback Policy.	

5.4	Where a landlord's complaint response is handled by a third party (e.g. a contractor or independent adjudicator) at any stage, it must form part of the two stage complaints process set out in this Code. Residents must not be expected to go through two complaints processes.	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 3.9 + complaints records in MRI	
5.5	Landlords are responsible for ensuring that any third parties handle complaints in line with the code.	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 3.9	
5.6	When a complaint is logged at Stage 1 or escalated to Stage 2, landlords must set out their understanding of the complaint and the outcomes the resident is seeking. The Code will refer to this as "the complaint definition". If any aspect of the complaint is unclear, the resident must be asked for clarification.	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 3.9	
			F *1	
Code	Code requirement	Comply:	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
Code provision	Code requirement	Yes / No	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
	When a complaint is acknowledged at either stage, landlords must be clear which aspects of the complaint they are, and are not, responsible for and clarify any areas where this is not clear.		Customer Feedback Policy 3.9	Commentary / explanation

5.9	Where a response to a complaint will fall outside the timescales set out in this Code, the landlord must agree with the resident suitable intervals for keeping them informed about their complaint.	Yes	Evidenced by One View case notes.	
5.10	Landlords must make reasonable adjustments for residents where appropriate under the Equality Act 2010. Landlords must keep a record of any reasonable adjustments agreed, as well as a record of any disabilities a resident has disclosed. Any agreed reasonable adjustments must be kept under active review.	Yes	Evidenced by One View case notes + customer information held in MRI.	
Code provision	Code requirement	Comply: Yes / No	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
5.11	Landlords must not refuse to escalate a complaint through all stages of the complaints procedure unless it has valid reasons to do so. Landlords must clearly set out these reasons, and they must comply with the provisions set out in section 2 of this code.	Yes	No reasons for refusal to escalate are cited in the Customer Feedback Policy	
5.12	A full record must be kept of the complaint, and the outcomes at each stage. This must include the original complaint and the date received, all correspondence with the resident, correspondence with other parties, and any relevant supporting documentation such as reports or surveys.	Yes	All complaint information held in One View.	
5.13	Landlords must have processes in place to ensure a complaint can be remedied at any stage of its complaints process. Landlords must ensure appropriate remedies can be provided at any stage of the complaints process without the need for escalation.	Yes	Resolution/remedies always sought at Stage 1 – evidenced by number of complaints resolved at this stage.	

5.14	Landlords must have policies and procedures in place for managing unacceptable behaviour from residents and/or their representatives. Landlords must be able to evidence reasons for putting any restrictions in place and must keep	Yes	Customer Feedback policy 3.12.	
5.15	restrictions under regular review. Any restrictions placed on contact due to unacceptable behaviour must be proportionate and demonstrate regard for the provisions of the Equality Act 2010.	Yes	Customer Feedback policy 3.13.	
	Complaints Stages - Stage 1		Le · · · · · ·	
Code provision	Code requirement	Comply: Yes / No	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
6.1	Landlords must have processes in place to consider which complaints can be responded to as early as possible, and which require further investigation. Landlords must consider factors such as the complexity of the complaint and whether the resident is vulnerable or at risk. Most stage 1 complaints can be resolved promptly, and an explanation, apology or resolution provided to the resident.	Yes	Resolution/remedies always sought at Stage 1 – evidenced by number of complaints resolved at this stage and within target timescales.	
6.2	Complaints must be acknowledged, defined and logged at stage 1 of the complaints procedure within five working days of the complaint being received.	Yes	Evidenced by One View case information.	
6.3	Landlords must issue a full response to stage 1 complaints within 10 working days of the complaint being acknowledged.	Yes	Evidenced by One View case information.	

6.4	Landlords must decide whether an extension to this timescale is needed when considering the complexity of the complaint and then inform the resident of the expected timescale for response. Any extension must be no more than 10 working days without good reason, and the reason(s) must be clearly explained to the resident.	Yes	Evidenced by One View case information.	
6.5	When an organisation informs a resident about an extension to these timescales, they must be provided with the contact details of the Ombudsman.	Yes	Evidenced by One View case information	
Code provision	Code requirement	Comply: Yes / No	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
6.6	A complaint response must be provided to the resident when the answer to the complaint is known, not when the outstanding actions required to address the issue are completed. Outstanding actions must still be tracked and actioned promptly with appropriate updates provided to the resident.	Yes	Evidenced by complaint correspondence. Follow on cases tracked within MRI and coordinated by Customer Complaints Coordinator.	
6.7	Landlords must address all points raised in the complaint definition and provide clear reasons for any decisions, referencing the relevant policy, law and good practice where appropriate.	Yes	Evidenced by complaint correspondence.	
6.8	Where residents raise additional complaints during the investigation, these must be incorporated into the stage 1 response if they are related and the stage 1 response has not been issued. Where the stage 1	Yes	Evidenced by complaint correspondence.	

Code provision	response has been issued, the new issues are unrelated to the issues already being investigated or it would unreasonably delay the response, the new issues must be logged as a new complaint. Code requirement	Comply: Yes / No	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
6.9	Landlords must confirm the following in writing to the resident at the completion of stage 1 in clear, plain language: a. the complaint stage; b. the complaint definition; c. the decision on the complaint; d. the reasons for any decisions made; e. the details of any remedy offered to put things right; f. details of any outstanding actions; and g. details of how to escalate the matter to stage 2 if the individual is not satisfied with the response.	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 3.8	
Section 6:	Complaints Stages - Stage 2			
6.10	If all or part of the complaint is not resolved to the resident's satisfaction at stage 1, it must be progressed to stage 2 of the landlord's procedure. Stage 2 is the landlord's final response.	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 3.8	
6.11	Requests for stage 2 must be acknowledged, defined and logged at stage 2 of the complaints procedure within five working days of the escalation request being received.	Yes	See One View case records	

6.12	Residents must not be required to explain their reasons for requesting a stage 2 consideration. Landlords are expected to make reasonable efforts to understand why a resident remains unhappy as part of its stage 2 response.	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 3.9	
Code provision	Code requirement	Comply: Yes / No	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
6.13	The person considering the complaint at stage 2 must not be the same person that considered the complaint at stage 1.	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 3.8 confirms: The stage 2 complaint will then be assigned to a senior employee, usually a member of the Senior Management Team or the Executive Leadership Team who has not previously been involved with the complaint.	
6.14	Landlords must issue a final response to the stage 2 within 20 working days of the complaint being acknowledged	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 3.8 confirms: Our target is to respond within 10 working days of the complaint being escalated to stage 2.	
6.15	Landlords must decide whether an extension to this timescale is needed when considering the complexity of the complaint and then inform the resident of the expected timescale for response. Any extension must be no more than 20 working days without good reason, and the reason(s) must be clearly explained to the resident.	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 3.8 confirms: Our target is to respond within 10 working days of the complaint being escalated to stage 2. If this is not possible; a date should be given as to when this can be expected. This should not exceed a further 10 days without good reason.	

6.16	When an organisation informs a resident about an extension to these timescales, they must be provided with the contact details of the Ombudsman.	Yes	Evidenced by complaint correspondence.	
6.17	A complaint response must be provided to the resident when the answer to the complaint is known, not when the outstanding actions required to address the issue are completed. Outstanding actions must still be tracked and actioned promptly with appropriate updates provided to the resident.	Yes	Evidenced by complaint correspondence.	
Code provision	Code requirement	Comply: Yes / No	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
6.18	Landlords must address all points raised in the complaint definition and provide clear reasons for any decisions, referencing the relevant policy, law and good practice where appropriate.	Yes	Evidenced by complaint correspondence.	
6.19	Landlords must confirm the following in writing to the resident at the completion of stage 2 in clear, plain language: a. the complaint stage; b. the complaint definition; c. the decision on the complaint; d. the reasons for any decisions made; e. the details of any remedy offered to put things right; f. details of any outstanding actions; and g. details of how to escalate the matter to the Ombudsman Service if the individual remains dissatisfied.	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 3.8	

6.20	Stage 2 is the landlord's final response and must involve all suitable staff members needed to issue such a response.	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 3.8 The member of the Senior Management Team or Executive Leadership Team will then review the process and the investigation carried out at stage 1. They will consider if the earlier actions were taken in accordance with our values / principles, policies & procedures and were reasonable and proportionate. They may ask a subject matter expert who has not previously been involved in the complaint to support them in this review.	
Continu 7	Duating this on winds			
Section /:	Putting things right	Comply	Evidence	Commentary / cynlenation
provision	Code requirement	Comply: Yes / No	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
7.1	Where something has gone wrong a landlord must acknowledge this and set out the actions it has already taken, or intends to take, to put things right. These can include: • Apologising; • Acknowledging where things have gone wrong; • Providing an explanation, assistance or reasons;	Yes	See complaint responses	

	 Taking action if there has been delay; Reconsidering or changing a decision; Amending a record or adding a correction or addendum; Providing a financial remedy; Changing policies, procedures or practices. 			
7.2	Any remedy offered must reflect the impact on the resident as a result of any fault identified.	Yes	See Customer Feedback Policy Compensation framework.	
7.3	The remedy offer must clearly set out what will happen and by when, in agreement with the resident where appropriate. Any remedy proposed must be followed through to completion	Yes	See complaint responses	
7.4	Landlords must take account of the guidance issued by the Ombudsman when deciding on appropriate remedies.	Yes	See complaint responses	

Code provision	Code requirement	Comply: Yes / No	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
8.1	Landlords must produce an annual complaints performance and service improvement report for scrutiny and challenge, which must include: a. the annual self-assessment against this Code to ensure their complaint handling policy remains in line with its requirements. b. a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the landlord's complaint handling performance. This must also include a summary of the types of complaints the landlord has refused to accept; c. any findings of non-compliance with this Code by the Ombudsman; d. the service improvements made as a result of the learning from complaints; e. any annual report about the landlord's performance from the Ombudsman; and f. any other relevant reports or publications produced by the Ombudsman in relation to the work of the landlord.	Yes	Annual complaints performance and service improvement*	*To be produced at end 2024/25 + see 8.2 below
8.2	The annual complaints performance and service improvement report must be reported to the landlord's governing body (or equivalent) and published on the on the section of its website relating to complaints. The governing body's response to the report must be published alongside this.	Yes	Board report	Board to consider on 2 nd June 2025 and agree response for publication alongside the report. Website publication subject to Board approval.

Code provision	Code requirement	Comply: Yes / No	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
8.3	Landlords must also carry out a self- assessment following a significant restructure, merger and/or change in structure.	N/A		Not applicable at this time
8.4	Landlords may be asked to review and update the self-assessment following an Ombudsman investigation.	N/A		Not applicable at this time
8.5	If a landlord is unable to comply with the Code due to exceptional circumstances, such as a cyber incident, they must inform the Ombudsman, provide information to residents who may be affected, and publish this on their website Landlords must provide a timescale for returning to compliance with the Code.	N/A		Not applicable at this time

Code provision	Code requirement	Comply: Yes / No	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
9.1	Landlords must look beyond the circumstances of the individual complaint and consider whether service improvements can be made as a result of any learning from the complaint.	Yes	Post complaint closure reviews by LFFG identify learning and any service improvements required.	
9.2	A positive complaint handling culture is integral to the effectiveness with which landlords resolve disputes. Landlords must use complaints as a source of intelligence to identify issues and introduce positive changes in service delivery.	Yes	Post complaint closure reviews by LFFG identify learning and any service improvements required.	
9.3	Accountability and transparency are also integral to a positive complaint handling culture. Landlords must report back on wider learning and improvements from complaints to stakeholders, such as residents' panels, staff and relevant committees.	Yes	Report to the Operations Committee at each cycle. Content in Home News Complaints information considered by Customer Voice Panel	Future reporting as at 8.1.
9.4	Landlords must appoint a suitably senior lead person as accountable for their complaint handling. This person must assess any themes or trends to identify potential systemic issues, serious risks, or policies and procedures that require revision.	Yes	The Head of Customer Operations is the person accountable	

Code provision	Code requirement	Comply: Yes / No	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
9.5	In addition to this a member of the governing body (or equivalent) must be appointed to have lead responsibility for complaints to support a positive complaint handling culture. This person is referred to as the Member Responsible for Complaints ('the MRC")	Yes	MRC appointed in June 2024	
9.6	The MRC will be responsible for ensuring the governing body receives regular information on complaints that provides insight on the landlord's complaint handling performance. This person must have access to suitable information and staff to perform this role and report on findings.	Yes	The MRC meets with the Head of Customer Operations and the Complaints Coordinator ahead of each Operations Committee meeting and makes a detailed report to the Committee at each cycle.	
9.7	As a minimum, the MRC and the governing body (or equivalent) must receive: a. regular updates on the volume, categories and outcomes of complaints, alongside complaint handling performance; b. regular reviews of issues and trends arising from complaint handling; c. regular updates on the outcomes of the Ombudsman's investigations and progress made in complying with orders related to severe maladministration findings; and d. annual complaints performance and service improvement report.	Yes	See: MRC reports to the Operations Committee and annual report MRC annual report Annual complaints performance and service improvement report.	

Code	Code requirement	Comply:	Evidence	Commentary / explanation
provision		Yes / No		
9.8	Landlords must have a standard objective in relation to complaint handling for all relevant employees or third parties that reflects the need to: a. have a collaborative and co-operative approach towards resolving complaints, working with colleagues across teams and departments; b. take collective responsibility for any shortfalls identified through complaints, rather than blaming others; and c. act within the professional standards for engaging with complaints as set by any relevant professional body.	Yes	Customer Feedback Policy 3.9	