

When Citizens Complain

For Ombudsmen,
Commissioners and complaint
handlers



One-week professional development workshop
24 to 28 June 2019



ACCREDITED
BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
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PAi is accredited by the
British Accreditation Council
for Independent Further and Higher Education

About the workshop

“When Citizens Complain” is a high-level one-week workshop. Its main aims are to:

- Improve public services and promote good governance in different countries
- Raise awareness of the importance of the Ombudsman, human rights and complaints Commissioners in dealing with corruption and human rights violations
- Explore a variety of systems and approaches to complaint handling and dispute resolution in different countries.

Who is the workshop for?

The workshop is for Ombudsmen and Commissioners and their senior staff. It will also be relevant for:

- Staff from complaint-handling organisations
- Policy makers from countries which have an Ombudsman system, which are in the process of setting one up or which are thinking of doing so
- Staff from complaint-handling or dispute resolution departments in any public body
- Public servants who wish to get a better understanding of how Ombudsman and complaint-handling offices work to improve services for the public.

How participants will benefit

The workshop will provide a valuable opportunity for you to:

- Broaden your knowledge of the concept and institution of the Ombudsman and variations of the Ombudsman model
- Learn from the experience and expertise of UK Ombudsman offices, relevant parliamentarians, lawyers, civil servants and leading scholars and practitioners
- Improve your capacity to manage investigations, produce effective reports, communicate with the public and other key stakeholders and deal with the media
- Make international comparisons and identify areas for developing and improving your own Ombudsman and complaint-handling systems
- Develop practical skills in managing the business of your office
- Familiarise you with how Ombudsman and complaint-handling organisations deal with complaints and redress grievances
- Share with one another individual experiences.

“Since attending this workshop, I have changed the way we write recommendations and our way of dealing with the media has also improved. The knowledge and advice gained from attending the programme has been very useful. The workshop was one of the best I have attended.

Natasa Jovic

Assistant Secretary General, Protector of Citizens (Ombudsman)

Serbia

What the workshop will cover

The workshop will cover issues of principle and practice relating to the role of Ombudsman and complaint handling organisations and will provide a balance between tutorial sessions, discussions and visits. Workshop notes, presentations and a range of different materials will be provided on an Android tablet for you to use during the workshop and for future reference and follow up. It is designed flexibly so that it can be adjusted in emphasis to meet your specific requirements and those of your organisation.

A key element for sharing experience and best practice will be sessions during which you will be invited to give an informal presentation on your own office and complaints system. You will also be asked to describe your approach to handling a range of cases and will be involved in problem solving exercises and discussion groups.

The workshop includes seminar-style discussions; exchanges of information and experience from the countries represented; practical casework, action planning and a range of visits to speakers from the offices of the UK Parliamentary Ombudsman, a Local Government Ombudsman, the Independent Police Complaints Commission, a private sector Ombudsman, mediators and other relevant complaint handling organisations.

Programme outline

	AM	PM
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and introductions The Ombudsman: an evolving institution, worldwide The UK Ombudsman scene Participants' informal presentations 	<i>Visit to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving compliance with recommendations Investigation techniques Training and development
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role of the Local Government Ombudsman in improving public services: annual reports, the use of publications and the media 	The work of the Adjudicator's Office: complaint handling and dispute resolution for Government Departments <i>Visit to the Independent Office for Police Conduct</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning from investigations Publishing annual statistics
Day 3	<i>Visit to the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective dispute resolution techniques Dispute resolution in practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges and opportunities: syndicate work Participants' individual cases
Day 4	<i>Visit to a private sector Ombudsman office</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overcoming barriers to access: gender, race, literacy, disability The role of the Independent Assessor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practical management skills: leadership, organisation skills and time management
Day 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The complainant's perspective: case studies Image and reputation: facing the challenge Governance of Ombudsman schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Putting it right: redress and remedies Review and evaluation Presentation of certificates of attendance

We reserve the right to change the programme as necessary.

Language

The workshop is conducted in English. You will need to have a good working knowledge of the language.

Location and arrival arrangements

The workshop is based in central London and will include visits to relevant Ombudsman and dispute resolution offices. We can arrange travel to and from one of the London airports into central London if you let us have your flight arrival details in good time. The cost of airport transfers is included in the fee.

Fees

The fee for the workshop will be £2,180. It includes tuition, travel to and from the airport in London, travel on scheduled visits which form part of the programme¹, presentation material and other documentation. It also includes a sim-enabled Android tablet for you to use during the workshop and take home with you. We also provide a light lunch and refreshments during each working day as part of the fee.

Other costs

Airfares and daily travel to and from the workshop venue are not included. Our workshops are non-residential and you are responsible for your accommodation costs. We can help you with booking hotel accommodation so please let us know if you would like us to advise you or make a reservation. We suggest that you should allow approximately £160 per day for a modest standard of hotel (for example, three-star), local travel in the UK, meals (apart from a light lunch on working days) and other incidental expenses.

Value Added Tax

We do not have to charge UK Value Added Tax (VAT) if you can provide written confirmation from your government or its accredited representative that you are “employed by the government in furtherance of its sovereign activities”. In all other cases, we will have to charge VAT (currently 20%) in addition to the fee.

Ways to pay

You, or your government agency, can pay by bank transfer or by cheque, made payable to Public Administration International. We also accept payment by credit or debit card but there is a surcharge for this way of paying. Please contact us if you would like to pay by credit or debit card.

Discounts

We offer a 10% reduction on the full tuition fee if we receive payment no later than 21 days before the first day of the workshop. If we receive payment after that, we will charge the full tuition fee.

Cancellation

If you have to cancel your booking, you must let us know in writing and we will acknowledge in writing your cancellation.

Substitutions and transfers

If you have booked a place on a workshop and are not able to attend, we will accept an appropriate substitute at any time without penalty, but our normal terms and conditions will apply. Also, it is possible to transfer to a future workshop, but only one transfer is permitted. Please get in touch with us and we will advise you about transfers.

Please see our website for our full terms and conditions. If you prefer a hard copy of our full terms and conditions, please let us know.

<http://www.public-admin.co.uk/terms-and-conditions-for-booking/>

Insurance

We advise you to arrange travel and health insurance cover before you leave your home country.

¹Travel to and from the airport in London and on scheduled visits during the workshop are provided at cost.

Workshop Director

The Workshop Director will be Sir Anthony (Tony) Redmond. Tony has had a long and successful career in public service, in particular in local government. He was Chairman and Chief Executive of the Commission for Local Administration and Local Government Ombudsman in England for nine years. During this time he also served as Chair of the British and Irish Ombudsman Association for two years.

Prior to being an Ombudsman he was Chief Executive of the London Borough of Harrow, Deputy Chief Executive and Finance Director of Knowsley (Merseyside) and Treasurer of the Merseyside Police Authority. In his earlier years he was Deputy Finance Director of Wigan (Greater Manchester) and Chief Accountant of Liverpool City Council.

Tony is currently Local Government Boundary Commissioner for England and Treasurer of UNICEF UK, as well as being involved in other non-executive roles. He is also Chair of the Consumer Council for Water for London and the South East.

Who we are

PAI (Public Administration International) specialises in management consultancy, training and development services for organisations in, and associated with, the public sector worldwide. We provide advice and support for governments going through political, economic, structural and legislative change. Our extensive network of associates includes practitioners, academics and independent consultants. Our key objectives are promoting good governance and good practice in delivering public services. This workshop is one of our range of specialist UK-based professional development workshops designed to meet the needs of public services worldwide.

We pride ourselves on our:

- High quality, practical advice and support for our clients
- Professionalism and integrity
- Ability to offer excellent value for money
- Sound experience and track record internationally
- Networks and partnerships across the world
- Flexible, collaborative approach
- Friendliness and focus on putting people first.

How to apply

Please complete the PAI application form and post, fax or email it to Clare Walters, Programme Manager, at the address on the bottom of the page.

You can also apply online via our website www.public-admin.co.uk

If you would like to discuss this workshop, any of our other international workshops or our consultancy services, please contact Claire Cameron, Director.

We also have extensive experience of designing tailor-made training (from one day to two or three weeks) which can be run in your own country or in the UK to meet the specific needs of groups or individuals at all levels within your organisation. Please contact us if you would like further information.



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