



Donegal Group of Parishes



Grievance Procedure (Volunteers)

The Donegal Group of Parishes is committed to providing a safe and happy work environment for volunteers. This grievance procedure aims to deal in a fair, prompt and impartial manner with the grievances of individual volunteers in relation to their role or duties.

Most difficulties can be dealt with through the normal channels of communication within a parish. Where this is not possible, the purpose of this grievance procedure is to provide for the orderly resolution of the issues in a fair and open way.

Informal discussions

If a volunteer has any grievance about their volunteering or a colleague they should discuss it informally, as soon as possible, with the leader in charge of their group or where they are the leader in charge of the group with the Incumbent. Their grievance should be taken seriously, and everything done to try to resolve the issue informally. The majority of concerns are likely to be resolved at this stage.

Formal procedure

If a volunteer feels that the matter has not been resolved through informal discussions, they should put the grievance to the panel. On receipt of a grievance under this grievance procedure, the panel will arrange to meet with the volunteer to allow them the opportunity to explain their grievance and share how they would like it to be addressed. The volunteer will have the right to be accompanied by a friend to this meeting. Following this meeting, the panel will give a written response, not later than ten working days after the meeting, outlining how the grievance will be responded to. If the grievance requires further meetings or investigations, the ten working day limit may be extended. The response will follow this meeting and include a reference to the right of appeal.

If the volunteer feels the issue has still not been resolved satisfactorily, they may appeal to the bishop of the diocese, whose decision is final. You may be accompanied by a friend at this appeal hearing and you will be afforded the opportunity to explain the basis on which you believe that the panel's decision was wrong.

In the event that the grievance concerns another employee, the panel may request that the grievance be made in writing in order that the person who the grievance concerns may have an opportunity fully and fairly to answer any such grievance. Where your grievance concerns another employee, the procedures outlined above may not apply in relation to the investigation of the grievance. In such circumstances, you will be informed in advance of the alternative procedure which will apply.

Grievances procedures for staff

Staff members may raise grievances with their line manager in line with the grievance procedures laid out in their staff contract.

Adopted by Lough Eske Select Vestry on 28th April 2025.

Adopted by Killymard Select Vestry on 30th April 2025.

Adopted by Donegal Select Vestry on 7th May 2025.

Adopted by Laghey Select Vestry on 12th May 2025.