

# LLOYD'S COMPLAINTS - INTERNATIONAL

## Handling International Complaints at Lloyd's: Guidance for managing agents and their representatives

This guidance note provides a practical process for handling international (non-UK) complaints received from eligible Lloyd's policyholders.

Where complaints arise, policyholders should expect to have their complaint dealt with in a prompt and reasonable way. At the same time, different countries have different local rules for the handling of complaints. Lloyd's arrangements for international complaints are intended to allow for the oversight of complaints handling outside of the UK, consistent with the regulatory expectations of the UK Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), whilst allowing flexibility for managing agents in the way they handle complaints in accordance with local rules.

It is therefore important that managing agents ensure they can comply with the local rules in territories outside the UK as well as Lloyd's requirements for handling complaints in that territory. Any questions should be directed to the Complaints team.

**Note:** This note is only intended to provide summary guidance of Lloyd's arrangements for international complaints handling. Managing agents should continue to refer to [Crystal](#) for the complaints regulations that apply in each territory. In addition, Lloyd's has produced for each territory a summary sheet setting out the key local requirements. Note that in a few instances, the local requirements will mean that managing agents must follow a different process to that which is set out in this note. That is highlighted in the relevant summary sheet. In the event of any differences between the country specific summary sheets and this note, the country specific summary sheets should be followed.

For more information about international complaints handling at Lloyd's please refer to [www.lloyds.com/complaintshandling](http://www.lloyds.com/complaintshandling).

### General Requirements

- Managing agents reporting more than 100 complaints per year to Lloyd's for UK and international complaints (excluding Australian and New Zealand) are required to exchange all data, documentation and case communication via secure API automated data exchange messages (DEX).

- The API messages are only able to exchange data between Lloyd's and managing agents' system and therefore all requests for documentation and information will be made via the managing agent rather than direct to a coverholder or delegated claims administrator.
- All emails (except for notification spreadsheets) must only contain data relating to a single policyholder. Emails should only be used by managing agents not in scope for DEX.
- All email attachments must be password protected using the managing agent / coverholder standard password provided to Lloyd's Complaints team.
- Lloyd's Complaints team are not to be copied in to emails between managing agents and their representatives. Any additional documentation supplied that is not required will be deleted.
- All documents including original complaints, investigation ongoing letters and stage one responses are to be submitted in pdf format. Local language documents may be provided as Word documents, for managing agents both in scope and out of scope for DEX, these can be provided via email.

### **Expression of dissatisfaction by complainant to managing agent/representative**

- Managing agents must have in place procedures that allow complaints to be made by any reasonable means, including orally. The definition of a complaint to be applied is that which is mandated by the relevant regulator in each territory. Where no definition exists, the following definition should be used:

*"any oral or written expression of dissatisfaction, whether justified or not, from, or on behalf of, a person about the provision of, or failure to provide, a financial service, which alleges that the complainant has suffered (or may suffer) financial loss, material distress or material inconvenience."*

- Managing agents must have oversight of all complaints. Therefore coverholders, delegated claims administrators (DCAs) or other agents of the managing agent, whether they have delegated authority or not, must notify the managing agent of each complaint received.
- It is the responsibility of managing agents to handle all international complaints appropriately and ensure they are compliant with all relevant local rules. This includes any requirement to acknowledge complaints, provide information to the complainant and meet applicable time limits.
- Managing agents who are not in scope for DEX must, within two weeks (or more frequently if required to comply with the 14 day notification requirement) must complete the Lloyd's International Complaint Notification template, providing details of all new complaints received where the complainant is eligible to have their complaint considered by the local External Dispute Resolution (EDR) scheme. This notification can be submitted by the lead managing agent or their representative (which could be a coverholder or delegated claims administrator). Furthermore, there may be territories in which the relevant definition of a complainant includes persons whose cases are not eligible for consideration by the EDR scheme; those cases will also need to be notified to Lloyd's.

- Notification spreadsheets must be received by 16.45 to be loaded on the day of receipt otherwise they will be loaded on the following working day.
- Complaints which have been brought to the attention of the managing agent by Lloyd's Complaints team must not be notified back to Lloyd's. Complaints must be notified to Lloyd's within 14 days of receipt and those not notified to Lloyd's within 21 days of receipt will incur an 'additional administration charge'.
- There is no requirement for a nil return where no new complaints have been received.
- On policies or binding authorities where there is more than one syndicate participating, Lloyd's expects the lead syndicate to notify the complaint.
- The International Complaint Notification Template should be downloaded from [www.lloyds.com/complaintshandling](http://www.lloyds.com/complaintshandling) and sent once completed via email to: [complaints-notification@lloyds.com](mailto:complaints-notification@lloyds.com). Managing agents must use the template provided by Lloyd's and should not create their own templates. The subject line of the email should state 'Notification Spreadsheet' unless the spreadsheet is automatically created by a complaint management database. The email should only contain the spreadsheet and no other documentation.
- For complaints made by a party other than policyholder, the details on the notification spreadsheet must be the complainant details and the covering email should provide details of the policyholder. For managing agents in scope for DEX, the policyholder contact details should be added to the managing agent system and these details will be provided to Lloyd's via API message 'Contacts'.
- Complaints where the risk address differs to the correspondence address or the complainant is being represented by another party, for managing agents in scope for DEX, these details should be recorded on the managing agent's system so they can be provided to Lloyd's via API message 'Contacts'.
- For managing agents not in scope for DEX, the following table explains how to complete the International Complaint Notification template. Completion of all fields is mandatory, except for the Address field. Managing agents should ensure that they provide the information in a way that is compliant with the applicable data protection laws.

Field	Comments
Submitting Company	This is the name of the managing agent or its representative, whichever of the two is completing the template.
Coverholder	If the policy was bound by a coverholder, select the coverholder name from the dropdown list.
DCA	This is the name of the delegated claims administrator involved in the claim. This field is optional.

Complainant Surname	This is the name of the complainant. Either the surname or company name must be completed.
Complainant Company Name	This is the name of the complainant. Either the surname or company name must be completed.
Complainant Address	Insert a correspondence address for the complainant. This field is optional.
Complainant Town	Insert a correspondence town for the complainant. This field is optional.
Complainant Zip / Postal Code	Insert the postal / zip code for the complainant. Completion of this field is required to facilitate identification of duplicate complaints.
Complainant Country	Select from drop down list.
Policy Number	Either policy number or claim number must be entered.
Claim Number	Either policy number or claim number must be entered.
Year of Account	Enter in the format YYYY. This field is optional.
Complaint Process	This is the complaint process that is being followed. Select from drop down list.
Policyholder Country	Select from drop down list. If the complainant and policyholder are the same person, please enter same option as in Complainant Country.
Date Received	Insert the date the complaint was first received by the managing agent or its representative. For example, where the complaint was initially received by a coverholder who subsequently notifies the managing agent of the matter the date the complaint was first received by the coverholder will be the operative date.
FCA Complaint Code	Select from drop down list.
Product	Select from drop down list.
Placement	Select from drop down list.
Syndicate Number	Lead syndicate on the coverage. *Select from drop down list.
Claims Related	Select Yes or No from drop down list
Lloyd's UK Root Cause	Select from drop down list. This field is optional.
Managing Agent Name	Managing agent for the lead syndicate. Select from drop down list.
Managing Agent Reference	Enter reference from managing agent system. This field is optional.

\*If written on a multi lead basis, please leave blank and set out in an email the lead managing agent/syndicate for each contract and the percentage share of the risk.

- The spreadsheet should be named 'NotificationInternational' and saved as an xls document, no additional columns should be added to the spreadsheet.

- No verification checks will be performed on the spreadsheet prior to upload and it will be loaded as received. If the spreadsheet fails to load successfully, the spreadsheet will be returned to the managing agent, or their representative, with details of the records that have failed. These incorrect records should be resubmitted on the next spreadsheet. NB The complaint will not be classed as logged for performance oversight purposes until the corrected spreadsheet is received and the complaint is successfully uploaded.
- The notification of complaints for managing agents in scope for DEX will be automatically provided to Lloyd's via the API message 'Notification' when loaded on to the managing agent system. Whilst it is not a requirement, it would be beneficial if a copy of the original complaint, in pdf format, is saved to the managing agent system at the same time so that this is provided by the API message 'Attachments' prior to the resolution of the case. If written on a multi-binding authority agreement basis, please provide details of each managing agent and their percentage share via API message 'Case Communication'.
- Complaints will be entered onto the complaints monitoring database by Lloyd's Complaints team to enable effective monitoring and reporting to the relevant regulators.
- Complaints must be notified to Lloyd's within 14 days of receipt and those not notified to Lloyd's within 21 days of receipt will incur an 'additional administration charge'.
- Managing agents must also keep their own record of each complaint received and the measures taken for their resolution.
- Lloyd's reserves the right to review and take over coordinating the response to individual complaints where, in the view of Lloyd's, this is appropriate in all the circumstances, including to meet local regulatory expectations of Lloyd's.

### **Response to complainant**

- In all cases a written response must be sent to the complainant by the regulatory deadline. Where there is no local regulatory deadline, a response should be sent within eight weeks of the date of the complaint being received.
- Responses must notify the complainant of any right (where applicable) to refer their complaint to the relevant EDR service e.g., an Ombudsman or Regulator, OR the UK Financial Ombudsman Service, if no local EDR is available.
- The letter should set out details of any redress or remedial action being offered. Redress includes:
  - Payments to put the complainant back into the position the complainant should have been in had the act or omission complained about not occurred, including any claim payments
  - Amounts paid for distress and inconvenience
  - Goodwill payments and goodwill gestures
  - Interest on delayed settlements
  - Waiver of an excess

- For managing agents not in scope for DEX, a copy of the response together with a copy of the original complaint must be emailed to [complaints-notification@lloyds.com](mailto:complaints-notification@lloyds.com) within two business days after the response is sent to the complainant. There is no requirement for these documents to be translated to English; this will be arranged by Lloyd's. The subject line of the covering email should state 'Stage One Response – policyholder name'. The body of the mail should confirm:
  - policy / claim number used to notify the complaint to Lloyd's
  - stage one decision (justified or not justified)
  - if justified, the grounds for justification and action taken, using Lloyd's standard options
  - redress payable
  - root cause of complaint (if not provided on notification spreadsheet)
    - Cancellation / refund
    - Claim – coverage / terms and conditions
    - Claim – customer service
    - Claim – delay
    - Claim – quantum
    - Claim – standard / duration / delay of repair
    - Customer Service – non-claims related
    - Other (we would expect this option to be rarely used)
    - Product suitability
    - Underwriting / Premium Issues
  - coverholder (if not provided on notification spreadsheet)

For complaints received via the telephone, a copy of the call or a transcript must be provided.

- For managing agents in scope for DEX, the API message 'Stage One' will be automatically provided to Lloyd's when the case is resolved on the managing agent's system. A copy of the original complaint, if not already provided, and stage one response, both in pdf format, must be sent via the API message 'Attachments' with the stage one message. If these are not provided on the same day, the stage one message will be rejected and this will then need to be corrected and resubmitted by the managing agent. The case will not be classed as closed until all messages are successfully received and so chase messages may be created and associated charges may be levied if corrected messages are not provided prior to the response deadline.
- Failure to comply with the following requirements will incur an additional administration charge:
  - correctly report the complaint received date or other mandatory information
  - provide all documentation in the format required by the Complaints Documentation Policy Statement
  - provide a copy of the original complaint and international response within required deadline

- provide details of the coverholder / root cause
- provide correct and complete EDR referral rights

### Request by complainant for a stage two review by Lloyd's

- The policyholder must not be provided with escalation rights to Lloyd's as there is no requirement for a stage two review by Lloyd's, however, if they remain dissatisfied with the international response the policyholder may request Lloyd's to undertake a stage two review and one will be undertaken at the discretion of Lloyd's Complaints team.
- At the inception of a stage two review, for managing agents not in scope for DEX, Lloyd's will request a full copy of the managing agent's file, policy wording and schedule and confirmation of either the claim reserve or that the complaint is not claims related. Files should be emailed to [complaints-notification@lloyds.com](mailto:complaints-notification@lloyds.com) and must include all documentation, including reports and call recordings pertinent to the case along with case notes. These documents are to be provided within 3 working days, in chronological order, with a single pdf document for the managing agent's file and a separate pdf for the policy wording and schedule. There should be no duplicated documentation or emails. Files too large to send in one email should be uploaded to secure store.
- Should the file contain any legal advice on which you have legal privilege, you understand that you transfer this to us at your own risk. Please confirm on the covering email containing the file, or via API message 'Communication' that:
  - a. The documents are confidential, privileged and the benefit of the privilege belongs to ***\*insert managing agent name\****.
  - b. The provision of the documents is only for the purposes of complying with the Lloyd's complaints handling process and does not amount to any waiver of privilege.

If in scope for DEX, please add a business risk of "legal privilege" and send this to us via the API message 'Fields Update'.

- For managing agents in scope for DEX, Lloyd's will request the documentation and claim reserve or confirmation that the complaint is not claims related via the API message 'Stage Two Escalation and File Request'.
- The data is submitted via API message 'Case File to Lloyd's'. The managing agent's file, policy wording and schedule are sent back to Lloyd's via the API message 'Attachments'. These documents are to be provided within 3 working days, in chronological order, with a single pdf document for the managing agent's file and a separate pdf for the policy wording and schedule. There should be no duplicated documentation or emails. Documents under 3mb are to be attached to the message, documents over this size are to be uploaded to secure store and a link to the file should be provided in this message.
- Failure to provide the documentation within this timeframe will attract either an 'Additional Administration Fee' or 'Automated Chase for Document / Information Fee' and failure to provide

the documentation in the required format will attract an 'Additional Administration Fee' charge per hour, or part thereof, taken to prepare the file.

- Lloyd's will issue a letter to the complainant informing them of the contact details of the complaint associate allocated to their case.
- These papers, together with documentation provided by the complainant, will be reviewed by Lloyd's Complaints team with further information being requested as necessary as part of Lloyd's investigation and assessment of the complaint. This review will consider guidelines from FOS as well as rulings on previous, similar cases.
- For managing agents out of scope for DEX, each Monday a report will be emailed to each managing agent which provides details of all open cases that are being reviewed at stage two together with the contact details for the complaint associate. Emails relating to these cases are to be sent to the relevant complaint associate direct and not to the complaints or notification mailboxes. Emails incorrectly sent to these email addresses may cause delays.
- Case communication for managing agents out of scope for DEX, will be via email and the subject line of email should include Lloyd's complaints reference and the policyholder's name.
- All case communication for managing agents in scope for DEX, must be via the API message, 'Case Communication'.
- Requests for additional information / agreement to proposed resolution are to be responded to within the deadline provided by the complaint associate. The deadline provided will be dependent upon the regulatory deadline of the complaint.
- Lloyd's Complaint team decisions may be made binding on managing agents under the Mandate of Complaint Decisions Policy, details of which are provided to managing agents separately. Managing agents may appeal such decisions by appealing to the contact details provided on the Complaints Mandate proforma within 2 business days. Managing agents are required to appoint a nominated person(s) to make the appeal on their behalf. This person must be a senior person within the managing agent who is not directly involved with the management or oversight of either the claim or complaint process.
- On completion of its review, Lloyd's Complaints team will issue a written Final Response to the complainant, together with the reasons for the decision. The letter will inform the complainant that they may refer the matter to the local EDR or FOS, as applicable.
- In most cases Lloyd's will complete its investigation and send the Final Response by the end of the regulatory deadline. Where Lloyd's Complaints team cannot provide a Final Response at this time, the complaint associate will send a letter to the complainant explaining why they are not able to provide a Final Response and when they expect to be able to provide one.
- Managing agents out of scope for DEX, will be provided with a copy of the Final Response letter by Lloyd's Complaints team via email. Managing agents in scope for DEX, will be provided with this via the API message 'Final Response'.



- Managing agents are asked to confirm that they have carried out the action required by Lloyd's Complaints team final response within 14 days of request or an EDR decision within 28 days of request. If it necessary for Lloyd's to chase for this confirmation, an additional administration charge will be levied.

### **Referral to Regulator or Ombudsman Service**

- Subject to applicable eligibility criteria, complainants may refer their complaint to their local EDR service (ombudsman or regulator), OR the UK Financial Ombudsman Service if no local EDR is available.
- Managing agents or their representatives must inform the Lloyd's Complaints team as soon as they are aware that a complaint has been referred to any EDR scheme.
- When the EDR process has been concluded a copy of the EDR outcome must be provided to Lloyd's Complaints team. Where the EDR scheme operates on a "non-binding" basis Lloyd's will also require confirmation as to whether the EDR decision is being accepted or rejected.

### **Assessment of Managing Agent Compliance with the Code**

- Sample checking of stage one responses for managing agents in scope for DEX will be conducted on a regular basis and this will feed into Lloyd's Complaints team quarterly review managing agents' performance against Lloyd's Complaint Performance Metrics, KPIs and other measures.
- Managing agents failing to meet the required standards will be required to explain the measures being taken to address any failings. Failure to improve performance may result in remedial or enforcement action.

### **FCA complaints return**

- Every six months, Lloyd's is required to submit a return to the FCA, detailing the number of complaints received, how quickly they were resolved, how many were upheld in the period and the amount of redress paid. This contains details of both UK and non-UK complaints.
- Managing agents are required to provide details of the number of policies in place for eligible complainants, broken down into specific product categorisations and territory. Managing agents must ensure that the product categorisation used to report complaints aligns with the product categorisations used for the eligible complainant return. A reconciliation of this data must be undertaken prior to submitting the eligible complainant return to ensure that there are no discrepancies between the two data sets.
- As required by the FCA, Lloyd's publishes these figures on its website at: [www.lloyds.com/complaints](http://www.lloyds.com/complaints).