



office of the
independent
adjudicator

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Good Practice Framework:

Handling reports of harassment and sexual misconduct

We welcome your comments on our draft guidance on handling reports of harassment and sexual misconduct. Please tell us if you think any part of this section of the Good Practice Framework is unclear or if you would find further guidance or information helpful on a particular point.

Please complete this short questionnaire and return to consultation@oiahe.org.uk.

Please return your submission by **Friday 6 February 2026**

Fill in this form online

If you prefer, you can also fill in the [form online](#).



About you

I am replying

on behalf of a higher education provider
on behalf of an awarding body
representing a student organisation
on behalf of another organisation
as an individual

**If you are happy to provide us with your contact details,
please enter these here:**

Name:

Name of provider/organisation:

Contact details:

**Would you be happy for us to quote comments
from your survey responses?**

Yes
No

You can read the draft **Good Practice Framework: Handling reports of harassment and sexual misconduct** on our website. Please give us your comments on this section by completing the questions below. Please use the questions relating to each sub-heading of the document for any comments that are specific to the content under that sub-heading. There is an opportunity later in the questionnaire for overall comments.

General

This section focuses on giving good practice guidance for providers in designing and operating procedures to respond to reports about harassment of any kind, and sexual misconduct. It includes guidance on:

- ▶ good practice when receiving, investigating and responding to reports about harassment and/or sexual misconduct; and
- ▶ disciplinary procedures for dealing with students accused of harassment and/or sexual misconduct.

The structure aims both to give an overview of good practice and to make it easy for readers to find the guidance that is relevant to the context of a particular circumstance.

Is the structure of the section helpful? If not, what would you find more helpful?

Comments under sub-headings

Language we have used in the Good Practice Framework

Any comments

We are particularly interested in views about the use of “report” to include both informal disclosures and more formal reports. Please comment on whether this affects the clarity of our guidance

Establishing an appropriate environment for study

Any comments

Is the explanation about considerations that apply to regulated providers clear and helpful?

Any comments

Delivering learning opportunities with others

Any comments

What additional information would be helpful about the considerations that apply when responding to reports from students in partnership arrangements?

Please include any examples you have of good practice in your current operations

Working with student representative bodies

Any comments

Making a report

Any comments

The initial response to a report

Any comments

Risk assessment and precautionary measures

Any comments

Mediation and informal resolution

Any comments

Deciding whether to use a disciplinary procedure

Any comments

Carrying out a formal student disciplinary investigation

Any comments

Holding a disciplinary hearing

Any comments

Concluding the disciplinary process

Any comments

It is important that providers respond to student's complaints in a timely way. This is usually within 90 days of receipt of a formal complaint, including any review or appeal process. What is your view about timeframes for responding to reports about harassment and/or sexual misconduct?

Learning from reports and complaints

Any comments

Overall comments on the section

Please provide below your comment on the section as a whole

Is the guidance clear?

Is there further guidance or information that you would like to see included in this section, keeping in mind our remit and the guidance provided in other sections of the Good Practice Framework?

Are there any other resources you have found useful that you believe should be referenced in the Useful Resources section?

Any other comments on the section

Thank you

Please return this form to
consultation@oiahe.org.uk



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