

**APPENDIX TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REVIEW LETTER 2014 REPORT
FOR THE CO-OPERATIVE SCRUTINY BOARD 19 NOV.
2014**



Policy, Performance and Partnerships

How to understand the categories in the breakdown tables on the Ombudsman's Annual Review Letter 2014

(extract from the [Local government Ombudsman website](#) November 2014)

Upheld: These are complaints where we have decided that an authority has been at fault in how it acted and that this fault may or may not have caused an injustice to the complainant, or where an authority has accepted that it needs to remedy the complaint before we make a finding on fault. If we have decided there was fault and it caused an injustice to the complainant, usually we will have recommended the authority take some action to address it.

Not upheld: Where we have investigated a complaint and decided that a council has not acted with fault, we classify these complaints as not upheld.

Advice given: These are cases where we give advice about why LGO would not look at a complaint because the body complained about was not within the LGO's scope or we had previously looked at the same complaint from the complainant, or another complaints handling organisation or advice agency was best placed to help them.

Closed after initial enquiries: These complaints are where we have made an early decision that we could not or should not investigate the complaint, usually because the complaint is outside LGO's jurisdiction and we either cannot lawfully investigate it or we decide that it would not be appropriate in the circumstances of the case to do so. Our early assessment of a complaint may also show there was little injustice to a complainant that would need an LGO investigation of the matter, or that an investigation could not achieve anything, either because the evidence we see shows at an early stage there was no fault, or the outcome a complainant wants is not one we could achieve, for example overturning a court order.

Incomplete/invalid: These are complaints where the complainant has not provided us with enough information to be able to decide what should happen with their complaint, or where the complainant tells us at a very early stage that they no longer wish to pursue their complaint.

Referred back for local resolution: We work on the principle that it is always best for complaints to be resolved by the service provider wherever possible. Furthermore, the Local Government Act 1974 requires LGO to give authorities an opportunity to try and resolve a complaint before we will get involved. Usually we tell complainants how to complain to an authority and ask them to contact it directly. In many instances, authorities are successful in resolving the complaint and the complainant does not recontact Us.