



Complaints about an academy independent admission appeal panel

This factsheet sets out the types of complaints parents / legal guardians can raise with the Education Funding Agency (EFA) about academy independent admission appeal panels ('panels'). All references to 'academies' also cover: free schools, university technical colleges (UTCs) and studio schools.

Complaints about panels for local authority maintained schools should be referred to the [Local Government Ombudsman](#).

Complaints EFA can investigate

EFA is the government agency responsible for investigating complaints about academy panels. **EFA can only investigate complaints about panels that did not follow the procedures set out in the [School Admission Appeals Code 2012](#) (the 'Appeals Code').**

Examples include:

- the panel didn't take relevant information into account in reaching its decision, or it took irrelevant information into account
- the admission appeal decision letter you received following the panel hearing did not give clear reasons for the decision
- you were not given an opportunity to state your case without unreasonable interruption
- the panel wasn't set up or run in accordance with the Appeals Code

Where we find something went wrong which could have affected the panel's decision, we may:

- recommend that the academy reviews its appeal procedures so that the problems you experienced don't happen to others
- ask the academy to hold a fresh appeal with a different panel

EFA can't overturn the panel's decision

A panel is independent and their decision can only be challenged in court through a judicial review. You should seek independent legal advice in relation to this.

EFA can't arrange panels

You should contact the academy direct to request an admission appeal.

Making a complaint to the EFA about a panel

Details of how to make a complaint are in the [admission appeals section](#) of GOV.UK.