



Why we produce the report

We are proud to publicise our Compliments, Correspondence and Complaints (3Cs) Annual report to the public, to ensure that our customers can see how we are performing and the level of service they can expect if they do contact us. We want to encourage our customers to give feedback, which we use to monitor and improve the services provided. Our 3Cs process monitors the number of Compliments, Correspondence and Complaints we receive and the time it takes for us to reply to those enquiries. This helps us to understand the levels of enquiries we receive, whether we are providing a timely service and if we are getting it right first time. Monitoring this information allows us to identify trends and adapt our service to the needs of our customers, which enables us to provide an efficient service.

Compliments

During 2023/24 the Council received 223 compliments from members of the public. The number of compliments received during 2023/24 reflects our commitment to provide services that our customers want and our efforts to provide excellent customer service and go that extra mile.

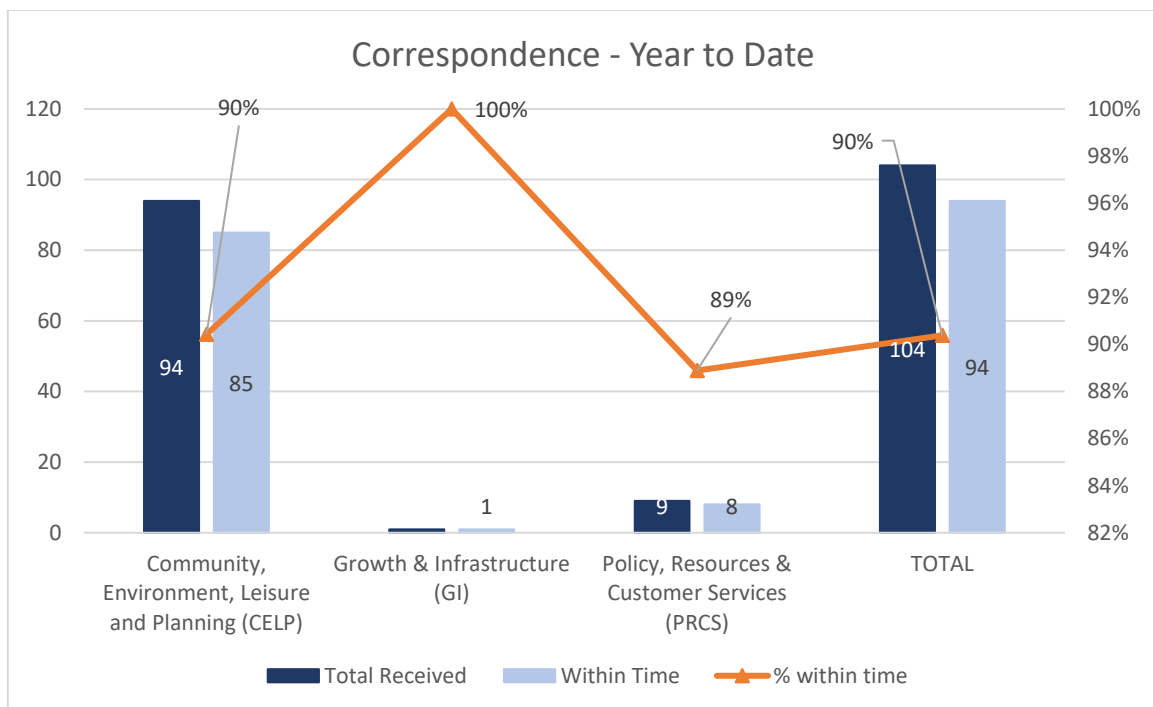
All compliments received are shared with staff and are used to help us understand what our customers perceive our strengths are as a Council. This helps us to continue to do more of what we are good at and exceed our customers' expectations.

Correspondence

During 2023/24, 3Cs set a target for the council to respond to 90% of all customers Correspondence within 10 working days. This target has been set to demonstrate providing excellent customer service. During 2023/24, the Council received 104 pieces of correspondence and replied to 90% of correspondence within 10 working days, as detailed in the table below.

The data collected has provided us with valuable information on which services our customers contact most frequently and the reasons for this contact. This data is used by each team to review the information that is available for customers to access themselves via our Website and Social Media sites. Further detail and information is also available via our telephone contact centre. This proactive approach has reduced the number of written enquiries coming in.

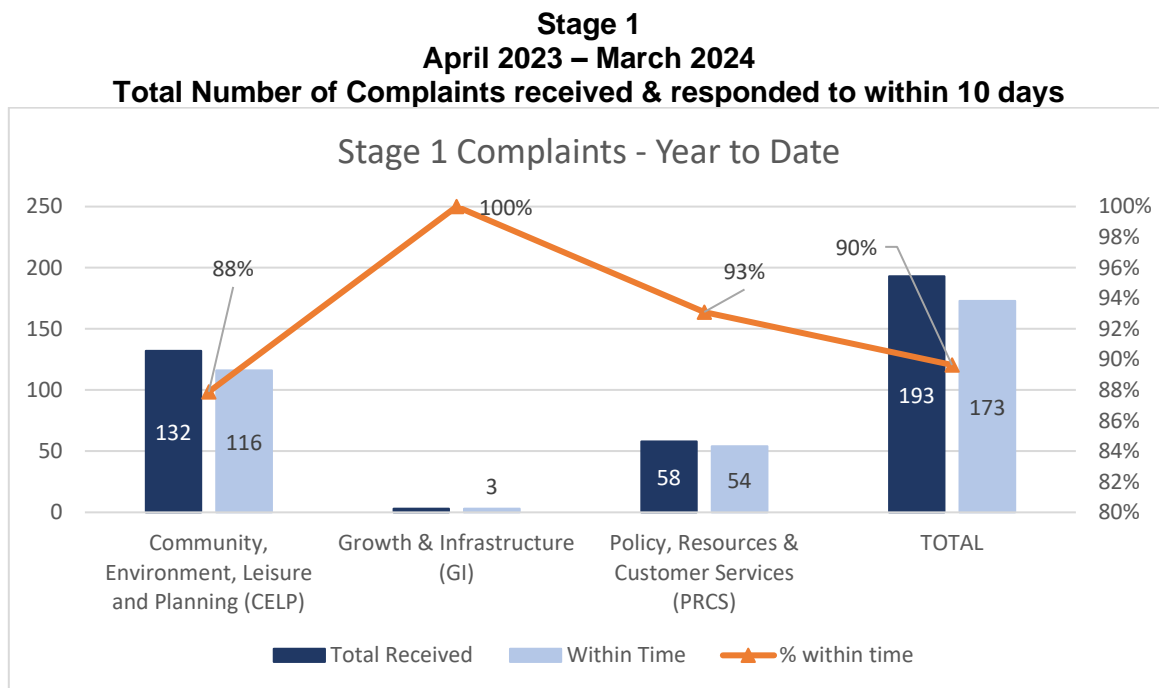
Correspondence Received April 2023 – March 2024



Complaints

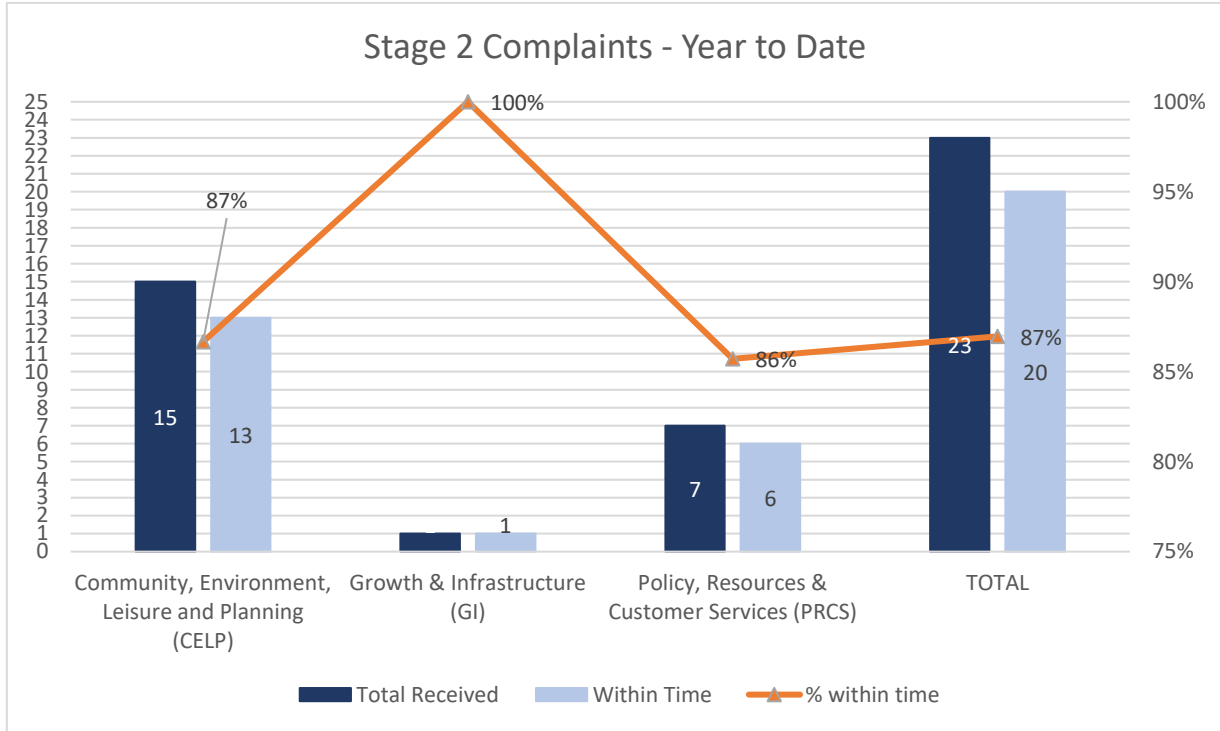
During 2023/24, the Council received 193 complaints. Our 3Cs complaints process has three stages in total. The Council aims to fully resolve issues at Stage one.

Of the 193 complaints received, 170 were dealt with at Stage 1, 23 customers escalated their complaint to Stage 2 and 14 escalated their complaint to Stage 3.



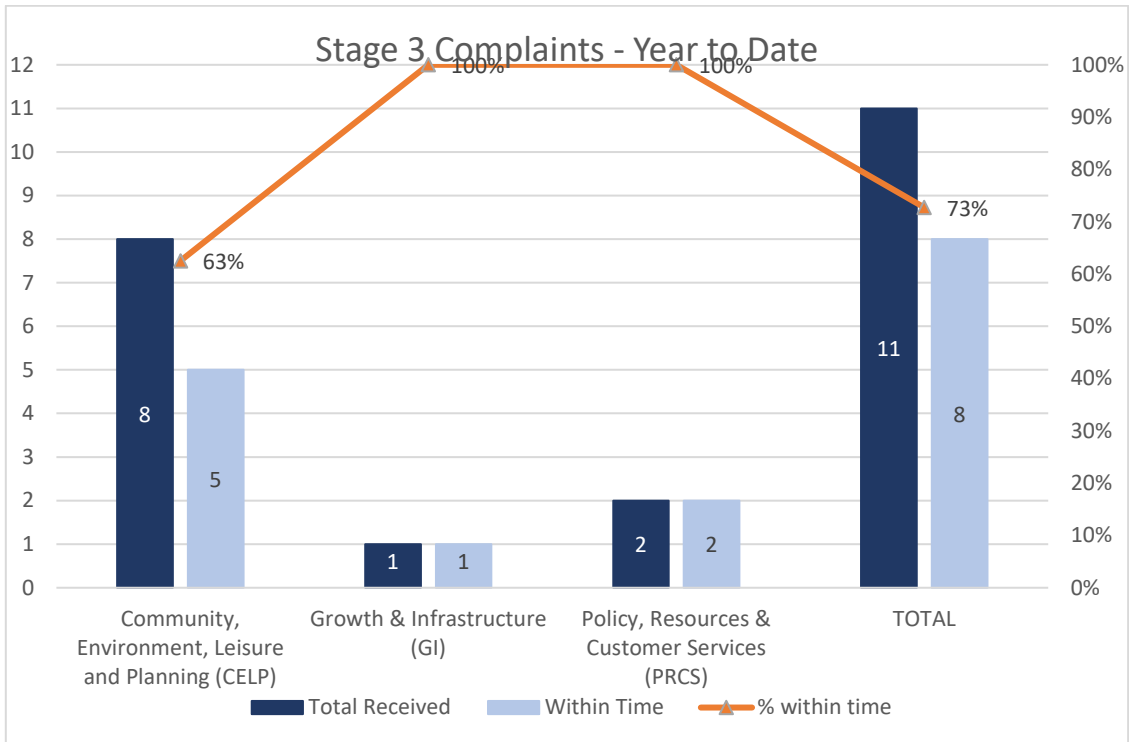
The above table shows the number of complaints by service area, received and responded to within set performance targets; this is also shown as a percentage.

Stage 2
April 2023 – March 2024
Total Number of Complaints received & responded to within 10 days



The above table shows the number of complaints by service area, received and responded to within set performance targets; this is also shown as a percentage.

Stage 3
April 2023 – March 2024
Total Number of Complaints received & responded to within 15 days



The above table shows the number of complaints by service area, received and responded to within set performance targets. This is also shown as a percentage.

During 2023/24, we monitored the complaints process to ensure the public were kept informed, treated with respect and dignity and to ensure a consistent approach was being applied. When a complaint was received a discussion was held with the service team to resolve the complaint as soon as possible. This has had a positive effect for both the customer and the Council and is reflected by the number of people escalating their complaint past Stage 1.

A further part of the Council's 3Cs process is to gain an understanding from the service teams about the actions they have taken to reduce a repeat occurrence. This small review after each complaint this has enables teams to identify potential future issues.

Each complaint that has escalated past Stage 1 is reviewed. The focus is on understanding the issues that are affecting the complainant and to explore all possible avenues to remedy the complaint.

As part of the review, we also look to identify processes or tasks which could be amended to improve the customer journey. This information feeds into the corporate transformation programme.

Local Government Ombudsman Complaints and Enquiries

A part of the 3Cs service is the investigation and response management of all Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) enquiries that Fenland District Council (FDC) receives. The following table shows the total LGO enquires that FDC received for individual service areas and decisions made during 2023/24

LGO Decisions made

Between April 2023 and March 2024, the LGO made five decisions relating to services provided by Fenland District Council. The table below shows the complaints that the LGO made a decision on in 2023/2024:

Planning and Development	Housing	Total
4	1	5

Service	Decision made	Decision
Planning & Development	May 2023	Closed after initial enquiries
Planning & Development	June 2023	Closed after initial enquiries
Planning & Development	June 2023	Closed after initial enquiries
Planning & Development	January 2024	Not upheld
Housing	March 2024	Not upheld

Between April 2023 and March 2024, we had no LGO complaints upheld.