

ADR Internal Statement of Compliance Annual and Quarterly Reporting

Reporting period - 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2023

Name of ADR Provider – Pegasus ADR Service

Background:

Type of ADR offered (e.g. mediation, adjudication, etc)	Principally by adjudication; occasionally by mediation.
Number of employees as ADR officials	Six
How are dispute outcomes reached? (e.g. panel decision, individual mediator, etc)	Judgement of evidence provided to the ADR case handler. Where judgement is contested the case is referred to the Independent Review Panel for consideration.
If outcome is reached by panel decision, please explain who makes up the panel?	Regulatory Advisor, Machine Technical Advisor, Legal Advisor and Social Responsibility Advisor.
How is the ADR funded?	Pegasus ADR Service is funded from subscribing gambling operators.

As a competent authority for the gambling sector we approve alternative dispute resolution (ADR) providers that wish to offer services to gambling consumers. Our role as competent authority includes making sure that ADR providers continue to meet the requirements of the ADR Regulations, alongside our role as gambling regulator to make sure that gambling is fair and open. The Gambling Commission expect ADR providers in the gambling industry to meet the requirements of the [ADR Regulations](#) and our [additional standards](#).

Internal statement of compliance

Please demonstrate how your organisation and your ADR process complies with the requirements of the ADR Regulations and the Commission's standards for ADRs in the following areas:

Statement	Response
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<p>ADR Services offered by the body Please demonstrate how you meet the requirements of the ADR Regulations Schedule 3, section 1. As part of your answer, explain how you ensure that stakeholders know why the scheme exists, what it does and what to expect from it (Ombudsman Association six principles of good governance, Clarity of Purpose).</p>	<p>Pegasus ADR Service offers alternative dispute resolution services in respect of unresolved complaints about gambling transactions in adult gaming centres, family entertainment centres, bingo halls, pubs, and clubs.</p> <p>Pegasus ADR Service does not act in cross-border disputes, neither are its officials remunerated directly by a gambling operator (trader) who is a party to a dispute.</p> <p>Consumers are aware of why the service is offered, and what to expect from it, as the process and procedure is made clear in operators' policy and procedure document in respect of complaints. Complainants seeking to use Pegasus ADR Service are also directed to the entity's website for more comprehensive detail.</p>
<p>Access to the ADR body Please demonstrate how you meet the requirements of the ADR Regulations Schedule 3, section 2. As part of your answer please explain how you consider the needs of vulnerable consumers (Commission standards, p24), and comply with other legislation such as GDPR.</p>	<p>Pegasus ADR Service maintains a website (updated from time to time) which provides parties in dispute with information regarding the alternative dispute resolution procedure operated by Pegasus ADR Service with detail provided to consumers on a durable medium if requested.</p> <p>Pegasus ADR Service provides consumers with the means to file a dispute with supporting documents online or by post. In addition, Pegasus ADR Service enables the exchange of information between the parties via electronic means or, if a party wishes, by post.</p> <p>Pegasus ADR service does not handle dispute cases involving on-line (remote), betting, casino, and cross-border sectors.</p> <p>Pegasus ADR Service, on receipt of written documentation, carries out an initial assessment of the circumstances of the dispute as outlined by the complainant. The assessment is usually carried out orally over the telephone.</p> <p>Case handlers will identify complainants who are vulnerable through mental difficulties or lacking the capacity to fully comprehend ADR procedure. ADR officials have also received training from GamCare's partners on how to interact and communicate with problem and at-risk gamblers. They will signpost to GamCare if appropriate.</p> <p>Pegasus ADR Service complies with GDPR legislation, in particular with the five principles under article 5.</p>

<p>Expertise Please demonstrate how you meet the requirements of the ADR Regulations Schedule 3, section 3(a). As part of your answer, please document any training or qualifications that your ADR officials undertake, the frequency of this, and whether there are refresher sessions for officials, and any experience in dispute resolution that officials have.</p>	<p>Pegasus ADR Service ensures that its officials possess an appropriate understanding of the law and the necessary knowledge and skills when dealing with out-of-court or judicial resolutions of consumer disputes.</p> <p>Case Handlers receive initial preparation by a competent trainer. Thereafter, refresher training is carried out at three-monthly intervals or less if circumstances merit.</p>
<p>Independence Please demonstrate how you meet the requirements of the ADR Regulations Schedule 3, section 3(b), (d), (e), (g) – (h). As part of your answer, please explain how you ensure and evidence the freedom of the office holder from interference in decision making (Ombudsman Association six principles of good governance, Independence), and how you are transparent about the way you are funded (Commission standards, p18).</p>	<p>Pegasus ADR Service appoints each ADR official for a term of office of sufficient duration to ensure the independence of that person’s actions and provides that no ADR official can be relieved of his or her duties without just cause.</p> <p>It remunerates officials in a way that is not linked to the outcome of alternative dispute resolution procedures.</p> <p>By appointing more than one ADR official, Pegasus ADR Service ensures that a case handler, without undue delay, discloses to the entity a circumstance that may, or may be seen to affect his or her independence or impartiality; or give rise to a conflict of interest with a party to the dispute which the ADR official is asked to resolve.</p> <p>A process is in place supervised by a qualified company secretary and the ADR Controller to ensure that there is no interference in decision making.</p> <p>Pegasus ADR Service is transparent as to how it is funded by trade association subscriptions with no fees charged to consumers. Details are laid out on the Pegasus ADR Service’s website.</p>

<p>Impartiality Please demonstrate how you meet the requirements of the ADR Regulations Schedule 3, section 3(c), (e), (f), and section 4. As part of your answer, please explain how you ensure straightforward dealing and completeness, based on honesty, selflessness and objectivity and ensuring high standards of probity and propriety (Ombudsman Association six principles of good governance, Integrity). Please also explain how your conflicts of interest procedure meets the requirements of the ADR Regulations, Schedule 3, section 4. This should include how you ensure that parties to a dispute fully understand the process where a conflict arises, and how you ensure that any ADR officials who work part-time in another capacity are not conflicted by their non-ADR duties (Commission standards p19).</p>	<p>Pegasus ADR Service is satisfied that the listed officials possess a good understanding of the law and the necessary knowledge and skills relating to resolution of consumer disputes, to be able to conduct their functions appropriately.</p> <p>The listed officials discharge their duties without bias to either party in dispute, or their representatives, and will disclose any circumstances that may, or appear to, affect their impartiality or independence, or give rise to a conflict of interest with a party to the dispute.</p> <p>In the event of a conflict of interest arising, both parties will be notified in writing to this effect and the case will be passed to an alternative listed official for action. If the listed official cannot be replaced by another official, the listed official will refrain from conducting the ADR procedure and will, wherever possible, propose to the parties that they submit the dispute to an alternative ADR entity, which is competent to deal with it.</p> <p>Listed officials are not remunerated in a way that is linked to the outcome of the ADR procedure, with an independent accounting structure in place.</p>
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<p>Transparency</p> <p>The ADR Regulations require you to publish information on your website (ADR Regulations Schedule 3, section 5), and we will check your website for this information. We also expect you to publish performance data and specific information on your methods and timescales as part of our standards. Explain how in general you ensure openness and transparency in your scheme in order that stakeholders can have confidence in the decision making and management processes of the scheme (Ombudsman Association six principles of good governance, Openness and transparency), and how all members of the scheme are seen to be accountable and responsible for their decisions and actions (Ombudsman Association six principles of good governance, Accountability).</p>	<p>Pegasus ADR Service maintains a website - updated from time to time - so that the parties to a dispute have information regarding the alternative dispute resolution procedure, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Postal, e-mail addresses and telephone number. (b) A statement that it has been approved as an ADR entity by the Gambling Commission. (c) the type of domestic disputes it is competent to deal with, including any financial thresholds which apply. (d) Procedural rules, and the grounds on which it can refuse to deal with a given dispute. (e) The language by which the alternative dispute resolution is conducted. (f) The principles by which the entity operates, and the main considerations that are taken into account when seeking to resolve a dispute. (g) The preliminary requirements that a party to a dispute needs to have met before the alternative dispute resolution procedure can commence. (h) A statement as to whether a party to the dispute can withdraw from the alternative dispute resolution procedure once it has commenced. (i) the preliminary requirements, if any, that a party to a dispute needs to have met before the alternative dispute resolution procedure can commence. (j) The average length of time taken to handle an ADR case to conclusion: (k) The legal effect of the outcome of the dispute resolution process, including whether the outcome is enforceable and the penalties for non-compliance with the outcome, if any. (l) A statement that alternative dispute resolution communications are conducted by oral or written means (or both), and (m) Annual key performance indicators (KPI) and annual reports.
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	<p>Stakeholders are assured that the ADR process is carried out in a transparent and open manner without prejudice to either party. Documents shared between parties are provided on a durable medium.</p> <p>Both parties to a dispute are, on conclusion of the process, invited to complete a customer satisfaction survey.</p>
<p>Effectiveness Please demonstrate how you meet the requirements of the ADR Regulations Schedule 3, section 6. As part of your answer, please explain how you ensure that the scheme achieves its outcomes efficiently and represents good value for money (Ombudsman Association six principles of good governance, Effectiveness). You should also demonstrate how you meet the decision/outcome quality standards (Commission standards, p19), and the process you have put in place for an audit/review of dispute outcomes, service standards and service quality (Commission standards, p18).</p>	<p>Pegasus ADR Service is available and accessible to both complainants and operators via the Pegasus ADR website, also on a durable medium if requested.</p> <p>Neither party in a dispute is obliged to obtain independent advice or be represented by a third party but may do so if they require.</p> <p>ADR is available to consumers free of charge.</p> <p>Pegasus ADR Service notifies both parties on receipt of all relevant documentation (file), and of the outcome of the dispute within 90 days of receipt of the file.</p> <p>Before reaching an outcome, we thoroughly examine all evidence presented, identifying further avenues of enquiry, as necessary.</p> <p>In reaching an outcome, Pegasus ADR Service takes full account of the information provided as well as the interpretation of legislation and consumer protection.</p> <p>Both parties are made fully aware of the circumstances leading to the dispute and have a fair opportunity to make their case.</p> <p>Pegasus ADR Service case handlers show no bias to either party in dispute.</p>

Fairness

Please demonstrate how you meet the requirements of the ADR Regulations Schedule 3, sections 7-10. As part of your answer, explain how you ensure that your dispute process takes account of the balance of power within a dispute, particularly around sharing evidence with parties to a dispute (Commission standards p18).

Pegasus ADR Service will ensure that:

- Either party can express their point of view.
- Provide a party in dispute with argument, evidence, documents, and facts provided by the other party including statements or opinions by independent experts.
- Comment from either party is actively encouraged.

Pegasus ADR Service informs parties in dispute that:

- Legal advice is not a requisite but independent advice or representation/assistance by a third party is acceptable.
- Both parties are notified of the outcome on a durable medium and the grounds on which the outcome is based.

Pegasus ADR ensures that parties involved:

- Can withdraw from the process if they are dissatisfied with the performance or operation of the procedure.
- Are informed before the procedure commences of their right to withdraw from the process at any stage.
- Are informed before agreeing to, or following receipt of, the outcome that they have a choice as to whether to agree, and that if they take part in the process it does not preclude them from seeking redress through the courts. Further, that the proposed solution may be different to that determined by a court, and that they are given a reasonable time to reflect before coming to a decision.

Pegasus ADR Service informs gambling operators and those bound by their trade association rules that they cannot withdraw from the ADR procedure. There are distinctions between those bound to participate and those bound to accept the solution.

Pegasus ADR Service considers customer needs when requesting or sharing information. Information is provided clearly and tailored to the consumer's level of understanding. This considers the balance of power or the perception of balance of power within a dispute. We particularly focus on the needs of those individuals who are unfamiliar with gambling, have literacy problems or may be vulnerable through mental disorder or lacking capacity.

<p>Legality Please demonstrate how your process meets the requirements of the ADR Regulations, Schedule 3, section 11.</p>	<p>Pegasus ADR Service ensures that consumers are not deprived of existing consumer protection laws.</p>
<p>General Please tell us about any changes you have made to the delivery of your dispute resolution process since your last report. What has been the impact of the changes? If you would like to share any additional information or comments (beyond that required by your ADR Regulations-specified annual report) then please comment below.</p>	

Quarterly/Annual reports

Quarterly reporting periods end 31 January, 30 April, 31 July and 31 October

Annual reporting periods 1 October.

Please submit your reports to your nominated Licensing Account Manager within 10 working days of the end of the reporting period.

Annual report information must be displayed on your website by 1 November each year, as per the ADR Regulations.

ADR provider quarterly/ annual reporting

ADR provider	Pegasus ADR Service
Reporting Period	1 October 2021 – 30 th September 2023
Quarterly return only*	

**if Nil Return, then please submit your quarterly return now.*

a) No of domestic & cross border disputes received	Domestic	58
b) Numbers of each type of complaint <i>Please list the actual number of each type of complaint you received.</i>	Cross Border AGC - 14 FEC - 0 Bingo - 1 Public House - 1 Members' Club – 0 Referred to Gambling Commission - 1 Online (misdirected) - 41	
c) Total number of disputes the provider refused to deal with <i>% share of the grounds set out in para 13 Schedule 3 of the ADR Regulations</i>	42	Consumer not contacted trader first
		Dispute is frivolous/vexatious
		Dispute is being/has been considered by another ADR provider/court
		0%
		0%
		0%

		Value is outside the provider's monetary thresholds	0%
		complaint not submitted within time period	0%
		dealing with the dispute would impair the effective operation of the body	0%
		not the relevant gambling sector	98%
		GC regulatory matter only (not a dispute)	2%
		Discontinued for non-operational reasons (e.g., party withdrew)	00%
d) % of ADR procedures discontinued for operations reasons	0%	reasons for discontinuation if known	N/A
e) Average time taken to resolve disputes in days		Domestic	10 Days
		Cross Border	N/A
f) no of disputes completed in period			16
g) % completed disputes ruled in operator's favour			00%
h) % completed disputes ruled in favour of the consumer			37%
i) % completed disputes settled by the operator during the ADR process			63%
j) average length of time taken to receive complaint file from operator (days)			4 Day

Items (f) to (j) are part of the Commission's additional standards and not a requirement of the ADR Regulations.

For annual report only - note that all fields relating to the annual report must be displayed on your website by 1 November each year.

k) a description of any systematic or significant problems that occur frequently and lead to disputes between consumers and traders of which the ADR entity has become aware due to its operations as an ADR entity;	Nothing of note
l) any recommendations the ADR entity may have as to how the problems referred to in paragraph (c) could be avoided or resolved in future, in order to raise traders' standards and to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices	Largely due to consumers not understanding what style(s) of gambling different entities are authorised to deal with.

m) the rate of compliance, if known, with the outcomes of the alternative dispute resolution procedures;	No incidents of operators failing to comply with outcomes. Also, unaware of any consumers failing to acknowledge outcomes.
n) the co-operation, if any, of the ADR entity within any network of ADR entities which facilitates the resolution of cross-border disputes.	Not tested to any large degree.