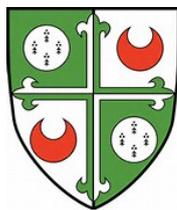


**Girton College guidance  
on and procedures for handling cases of harassment  
or sexual misconduct  
raised by one student (or students) about another student (or  
students )**



Approved by Council 26.5.17

At its meeting on 29.07.19, in updating its overall discipline policy, Council agreed that all cases of sexual harassment and assault would be referred to the Office of Student Conduct Complaints and Appeals (OSCCA)

## **Girton College guidance on and procedures for handling cases of harassment or sexual misconduct raised by one student (or students) about another student (or students)**

The following guidance and procedures have been designed to work alongside the University procedure for handling cases of harassment and sexual misconduct: [www.studentcomplaints.admin.cam.ac.uk/harassment-and-sexual-misconduct](http://www.studentcomplaints.admin.cam.ac.uk/harassment-and-sexual-misconduct)

The College has a separate complaints procedure under which students can raise complaints about College academic and non-academic provision.

1. Girton College has adopted the University's Code of Conduct in respect of Harassment and Sexual Misconduct (Appendix B2) and affirms its commitment to providing an environment that is free from harassment and discrimination, and the right of all members to be treated with dignity and respect.
2. The College will treat any allegation of harassment or sexual misconduct of a student by another student seriously, and the Code of Conduct and procedures described here apply to all students.
3. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own conduct: the fact that a student against whom an allegation has been made was under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time will not be viewed as mitigating the case.
4. If students believe that they have been subject to harassment or sexual misconduct by another student, they can do any or all of the following:
  - seek advice, guidance and support;
  - seek alternative resolution;
  - raise a complaint with the College or with the University (but not both).
5. Both the Complainant and the Respondent will be advised to think carefully about what information they disclose to others at all stages of seeking resolution of the matter, and will be given a copy of the College's policy on the use of personal information. Students should ensure that they are aware of the limits that may be applied to the principle of confidentiality, including how any information they provide might be used at later stages of the procedure if the case is escalated to more formal, including disciplinary, procedures, or if it is reported to the Police.

### **Advice, guidance and support**

6. Students who believe they have been harassed or been the subject of sexual misconduct are advised to seek support from the College or from the University. Students can seek advice from their College Tutor or another point of contact within the College.

7. Students may also seek independent support and information from the Cambridge University Students' Unions' Advice Service (SUAS).
8. Sexual assault and rape are criminal offences, and Complainants will be supported to come to an informed decision as to whether to report such an incident to the Police.<sup>1</sup> However, if the Complainant decides not to report the incident to the Police, neither the College nor the University will require them to do so. No inferences will be drawn from the Complainant's decision not to report the incident to the Police.
9. In exceptional circumstances, where the facts as they emerge give rise to concerns that there is a significant ongoing risk to members of the College or University community, or the wider community, the Senior Tutor may make an executive decision to refer the matter to the Police. The Senior Tutor will, in all but exceptional circumstances, inform the Complainant of their intention to report the matter to the Police, and their reasons, before doing so.
10. If, at any stage, Complainants feel that they are being disadvantaged or suffering reprisal from any member of the College, including the person they have made a complaint about, as a result of complaining about harassment or sexual misconduct, they should seek advice and guidance from the Senior Tutor or another senior member of the College.

### **Alternative resolution**

11. In some cases relating to harassment, students who are unhappy with the behaviour of another student may want to try to resolve the matter themselves directly with the other student.
12. If seeking alternative resolution in this way, a student is advised to seek support on a confidential basis from a College Tutor, the Senior Tutor or another staff member, either to help them to work out what to say, or to accompany them when they meet the person they are complaining about. Because of the possibility of counter-accusation or recrimination, Complainants are advised to alert a supporting person, such as their Tutor, to the problem before approaching the person concerned, even if they feel able to take this action on their own.
13. Students should be encouraged to try to describe the behaviour very precisely, including where and when it happened. Students should also make it clear how they feel about what has happened, and describe the effect it is having on them. Finally, they should be encouraged to say precisely what they want to happen going forward.

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<sup>1</sup> The University is planning to establish a post of Harassment and Sexual Assault Advisor at the University Counselling Service (UCS) from October 2017. This post will be able to offer specialist advice and guidance to students. In the meantime, students can seek support from the

14. If a direct approach has been tried and has not worked, or if a student does not wish to make such an approach, the College Tutor or other College advisor may be able to seek to resolve the problem on their behalf. The College might also propose that both parties agree to co-operate with an independent mediator seeking to mediate – the University offers a mediation service that could be used (see Appendix A) in cases where the College is not able to provide a mediator.
15. If an attempt at alternative resolution has not resolved the issue to the satisfaction of the Complainant, the Complainant can raise a formal complaint to the College or to the University. However, there is no requirement that an attempt at alternative resolution has been made before a formal complaint is raised.

### **Raising a formal complaint**

16. Complaints can be raised under either the College or the University procedures, but not both. All complaints about harassment or sexual misconduct, whether they are raised with the College or with the University, will be considered on a case-by-case basis as to which is the most appropriate procedure for consideration.
17. If the complaint is about harassment, students are normally expected to use a College procedure, and students at any College may use this procedure to raise a complaint about the behaviour of a student or students at Girton College. If the complaint is about the behaviour of a student at another College, it may be possible to raise it under that student's College's procedure; if this is not possible, the University's procedure can be used to raise such a complaint.
18. Girton College and the University expect that complaints against students from more than one College, or involving members of a University club or society, would normally be raised under the University's procedure because of the likely complexity of such cases.
19. Subject to the views and wishes of the Complainant, Girton College and the University anticipate that complaints about sexual misconduct will usually be directed to the University's procedure.
20. The College will provide pastoral support, as desired, to any Girton College student involved in the University procedure, whether as a Complainant or as a Respondent.

### **How to make a complaint about harassment or sexual misconduct to the University**

21. The University procedure and guidance documents describe how the Complainant's complaint will be considered, and the possible outcomes. The Head of the University's Office for Student Conduct, Complaints and Appeals (OSCCA) will be able to answer any specific questions students or staff might have about the procedure and will

endeavour to ensure that the students understand the procedure at each stage. OSCCA can be contacted on [OSCCA@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:OSCCA@admin.cam.ac.uk).

## **How to make a complaint about harassment or sexual misconduct to Girton College**

22. A detailed procedure is appended. What follows is a summary of the procedure and further explanatory information about how it will be followed.
23. At all stages of the formal procedure, decisions on what action will be taken will be made by people who are trained to make those decisions. In deciding what, if any, action to take, Girton College will need to consider a variety of relevant factors including, for example: the evidence which is available to support an allegation of misconduct; any admission of responsibility by the person against whom the complaint has been made; the limitations of the College's internal procedure in terms of obtaining and assessing evidence; and the need to safeguard the rights of both parties.
24. Bringing a complaint under the College's procedure does not prevent the Complainant from reporting the matter to the Police at any time. If the matter is being dealt with under the criminal process, the College will normally suspend any action under its procedure, but may take precautionary action to ensure that a full and proper investigation can be carried out and/or to protect the Complainant, Respondent or others while the matter is being dealt with. Any precautionary measures are not intended to be punitive and do not make any assumptions about the merits of the complaint.
25. In reaching a decision on what action, if any, to take, Girton College may seek legal advice at any point in the process.
26. Complainants should make their complaint in writing to the Senior Tutor setting out details of the events that form the basis of the complaint, together with any evidence and, if appropriate, information on any attempts that have been made to resolve the matter informally.
27. The Senior Tutor will give initial consideration to the complaint before a decision is made on whether it will be referred for investigation. Some cases may not be referred for investigation, but instead the Complainant will be asked to seek alternative resolution of the matter, with support from their Tutor or another member of the College, or recommended to raise the complaint under the University's procedures. The complaint may be dismissed or rejected because it does not fall under the scope of the College's procedure (see Appendix B).
28. The Complainant will normally be told the outcome of this initial consideration within 10 working days of submitting their complaint.

## **Investigation**

29. If the case is referred for investigation, a trained Investigator will be appointed by the Senior Tutor to try to establish as many undisputed facts about what happened as possible. The investigation will be conducted fairly and objectively. The Head of OSCCA is able to help with identification of a suitable external Investigator, if required.
30. If the parties are willing, the Investigator will meet separately with both parties and may also meet any witness to the events that are the subject of the complaint. The Investigator will then write a report and recommend a course of action.
31. Both the Complainant and the Respondent may wish to be accompanied during the investigation by a supporter, such as a Tutor, a member of CUSU, the Students' Unions' Advice Service or the JCR/MCR, or a friend. Given the nature of the types of complaints that will be considered under the College, rather than the University, procedure, it is unlikely that it will be necessary for either party to bring a legal advisor to any meetings held under the procedure. Students would not, however, be prohibited from doing so, and the respondent will be reminded before he or she meets with the investigator that they are entitled to seek independent legal advice. If a student wishes to take legal advice, this will be at their own expense.
32. In some cases, after discussions with the Investigator, both parties may agree that alternative resolutions should be explored through mediation. The University Mediation Service is available for students and may be useful in these cases (see Appendix A).

## **Consideration of the complaint and possible outcomes**

33. Following the investigation, the report and any recommendation will be considered by the Senior Tutor who may decide that:
  - with the agreement of both the Complainant and the Respondent, the parties should seek to resolve the matter through mediation or otherwise; or
  - resolutions should be proposed; or
  - the case should be referred for consideration under the College's disciplinary procedure; or
  - the complaint should be dismissed.
34. Acceptance of a resolution will not require the Respondent to admit liability, nor imply that the College has made a finding of wrong-doing.
35. Resolutions might include asking the Respondent to abide by a conduct agreement. This might stipulate that the Respondent will refrain from contact with the Complainant, either indefinitely or for a specified period in the first instance. It might be necessary for

the Respondent to move rooms. The Respondent may also agree to intermit, or to attend behaviour awareness training.

36. A record of a conduct agreement will be retained by the College and may be taken into account if a further complaint is made against the Respondent under this procedure, whether that subsequent complaint is made by the original Complainant or a different Complainant.
37. If the complaint is dismissed, the Complainant and the Respondent involved will be offered help and guidance to restore reasonable relations between them. This process might include mediation.
38. The Senior Tutor will keep both the Complainant and Respondent informed of the general progress of the complaint. Where a complaint under the College's formal procedure leads to disciplinary proceedings, the Complainant will be kept informed of the progress of the proceedings and will be formally notified of the outcome of any disciplinary hearing and any sanctions applied to the Respondent that impact upon the Complainant.
39. If the Complainant is dissatisfied with the decision made using this procedure, they have the right to ask for a review of the decision. This review will be conducted in accordance with paragraph 6.4 of the procedure. If following the review the original decision is upheld, a Completion of Procedures letter should be issued to the Complainant to enable them to raise the complaint with the Office of the Independent Adjudicator if they remain dissatisfied.

## **Discipline**

College disciplinary procedures can be found here  
<https://www.girton.cam.ac.uk/for-undergraduates/undergraduate-living/college-policies#discipline>

## **Appendix A – Mediation**

Mediation offers a chance for both students to identify and discuss their concerns. Mediation will only be an option if both parties agree to engage with the process.

To support this process, and to complement the work already undertaken by College Tutors in resolution of disputes between students, the University offers a mediation service for students. The student mediation service uses dual mediation by two neutral, independent mediators to assist the students to resolve their differences and reach a mutually acceptable agreement on the way forward.

The mediators are members of staff who have volunteered for the role and who have received formal mediation training. The mediators are impartial; they have no vested interest in the outcome and will not impose an agreement. The mediators are only interested in helping the students to reach a mutually acceptable solution. The mediators will manage the whole mediation process, creating a safe and supportive environment so that both students can talk honestly and openly about what has happened and how it has affected them.

## Appendix B

### Formal procedure for consideration of cases of Student on student harassment and sexual misconduct

#### I. Glossary

I.1. In this procedure the following terms shall have the meanings set out below:

- Code of Conduct            The Code of Conduct for Students in respect of Harassment and Sexual Misconduct, as set out in Appendix B I
- Complainant            A student who has made a complaint under this procedure
- Working Day            Any day except weekends, public holidays and any other day when the University Offices are closed
- Respondent            A student about whom a complaint has been made under this procedure
- Student                A matriculated student following a course leading to the award of a degree, diploma, or certificate of the University

#### 2. Scope of procedure

- 2.1. This procedure applies where a student wishes to complain that the behaviour of another student contravenes the College's Code of Conduct in respect of Harassment and Sexual Misconduct.
- 2.2. Girton College has a general Complaints Procedure under which a student may raise other types of complaint, including a complaint about the College experience or about a member of College staff see <https://www.girton.cam.ac.uk/images/pdf/Girton-Community/personnelmanual/G0001.pdf>
- 2.3. Because this formal procedure for consideration of cases of student on student harassment and sexual misconduct places an emphasis on reaching consensual resolution, complaints made by a third party and anonymous complaints will not normally be accepted. College Tutors and others may wish to discuss alternatives to the use of this procedure with the Senior Tutor.
- 2.4. It is possible for a complaint under this procedure to be brought by or against two or more Girton College students where the complaint is about harassment arising from the same event(s). In such cases, references in this procedure to the 'Complainant' or the 'Respondent' shall be construed as appropriate as referring to more than one person.

- 2.5. A Complainant may choose whether to raise a complaint under this procedure or under the University procedure. However, it is the expectation of the College and the University that the University procedure will be used where:
  - (a) the complaint relates to sexual misconduct; or
  - (b) the complaint relates to conduct occurring in the context of University societies or sports clubs; or
  - (c) the Respondents include students from Girton College and another College.
- 2.6. A complaint of harassment may be brought under this procedure whether or not it has been reported to the Police – but see paragraph 3.6 below.
- 2.7. A complaint cannot be brought under this procedure if the Complainant has previously made a complaint about the same event(s) which has been dealt with under the University's procedure.
- 2.8. No inferences shall be drawn from the Complainant's choice of avenue to pursue the complaint, be it via the College's procedure, the University's procedure or the Police.

### **3. General principles**

- 3.1. Any reference in this procedure to a College officer or other named role includes a deputy appointed by that officer or role-holder to exercise the functions assigned to that officer under this procedure.
- 3.2. The College will act reasonably in considering complaints under this procedure, having regard to the individual circumstances of the case. Every effort will be made to ensure that all parties are treated with fairness and dignity.
- 3.3. The time limits set out in this procedure may be varied by the Senior Tutor for good reason, after consultation with the Complainant and the Respondent as appropriate.
- 3.4. A written decision issued in accordance with this procedure shall also include the reasons for that decision.
- 3.5. The Senior Tutor may suspend the consideration of a complaint at any stage of this procedure and/or refer the matter for consideration under another procedure, after consultation with the Complainant and the Respondent as appropriate.
- 3.6. Where the events which are the subject of a complaint under this procedure have been reported to the Police, the Senior Tutor will normally suspend the procedure pending the outcome of any police investigation and/or criminal proceedings.
- 3.7. Under this procedure the Head of House, on the advice of the Senior Tutor, shall have power to impose any precautionary measures set out below for a period of up to 21

days, in the first instance, where the Head of House considers that any such measures are necessary:

- (a) to ensure that a full and proper investigation can be carried out in relation to any matter (whether under a procedure in the College, or by the University or the Police); and/or
- (b) to protect any person while any matter is being dealt with under a procedure in the College or as part of a criminal process.

The Head of House shall have the power to extend any precautionary measures imposed for additional periods of no more than 21 days in duration.

- 3.8. The precautionary measures which the Head of House may impose are any one or more of the following:
- (a) excluding the person from some or all of the College's facilities and/or premises;
  - (b) imposing conditions on the person
    - (i) in connection with that person's use of the College's facilities and/or premises or that person's contact with other persons, or
    - (ii) in such other ways as may be considered necessary; and
  - (c) suspending the person in question either in full or in part from their studies.
- 3.9. The Senior Tutor will inform the University, through the Head of the Office of Student Conduct, Complaints and Appeals, of precautionary action taken in respect of individual students.
- 3.10. Individual students who are subject to precautionary measures imposed by the Head of House under this procedure have the right to provide representations when the decision regarding precautionary action is made, or where a decision is required to be made immediately as a result of the level of risk, as soon as possible following the decision. Students who are subject to precautionary measures also have the right to appeal the decisions or ask for a review of the decision if there is a material change in the circumstances of the case. The appeal will be conducted in accordance with paragraph 6.4 of the procedure.
- 3.11. Where, at any point during this procedure, the Complainant and Respondent have agreed to seek alternative resolution of the complaint under paragraph 5 but have been unable to reach an agreed outcome, the Senior Tutor will consider whether further action should be taken under this procedure and, if so, at what stage of the procedure.
- 3.12. The Complainant may withdraw a complaint at any time during this procedure, by notifying the Senior Tutor in writing. Where a complaint is withdrawn no further action will be taken under this procedure, but the Senior Tutor may refer the matter for consideration under another College procedure.

- 3.13. To ensure that there are no conflicts of interest, no person serving under this procedure as a member of a decision-making body or as an Investigator will have any previous knowledge of the case nor any material connection to the Complainant or the Respondent. The Complainant or the Respondent (or their representatives) will be entitled to object to the involvement of an individual for good cause. The holders of the offices to which this procedure refers shall appoint standing deputies to act on their behalf in the event of any conflict of interest.

#### **4. Support and guidance**

- 4.1. The Senior Tutor will provide advice at the outset to help both Complainants and Respondents to understand this procedure.
- 4.2. Complainants, Respondents and witnesses are entitled to be accompanied by a supporter at any meeting held under this procedure. A supporter may be a Tutor, a student representative or a friend. Complainants and Respondents will be permitted to be accompanied by a legal representative at such meetings.
- 4.3. Appendix B2 of this procedure sets out the College's policy on the use of personal information under this procedure. A copy of the policy will normally be provided to Complainants, Respondents and witnesses to events relating to the complaint so that they understand how their personal information will be used and the limits on confidentiality. The policy indicates the College and University officers with whom the information is likely to be shared.
- 4.4. First contact with possible student witnesses at another College will normally be made via their Senior Tutor.

#### **5. Alternative resolution**

- 5.1. Alternative resolution may be suitable for dealing with some cases that are brought under this procedure, and, wherever appropriate, Complainants are encouraged to consider seeking alternative resolution to their concerns before bringing a formal complaint under this procedure.
- 5.2. Alternative resolution may not be appropriate for some complaints of harassment because the relationship between the parties has broken down. In such cases, the complaint will be considered in accordance with the formal procedure (paragraph 6).

#### **6. Formal procedure**

- 6.1. *Raising a complaint*

- 6.1.1. A Student who wishes to make a complaint under this procedure must do so in writing. The Complainant should set out details of the complaint together with details of any attempts at alternative resolution, if appropriate.
- 6.1.2. The complaint should be addressed to the Senior Tutor of the Respondent's College.
- 6.1.3. On receipt of the complaint the Senior Tutor will give the case initial consideration and determine whether to:
  - (a) refer the complaint for investigation under paragraph 6.2 of this procedure;
  - (b) recommend to the Complainant that they should seek alternative resolution of the complaint;
  - (c) decline to refer the complaint for investigation under this procedure and recommend to the Complainant that they should raise it under the University procedure;
  - (d) dismiss the complaint because it is considered to be without merit, or, in exceptional cases, as vexatious, frivolous or malicious;
  - (e) reject the complaint because it does not fall within the scope of this procedure;
  - (f) decline to refer the complaint for investigation under this procedure for other reasons.
- 6.1.4. The Senior Tutor will notify the Complainant in writing of the outcome of this initial consideration within ten Working Days of receipt of the written complaint.
- 6.1.5. In the event that the outcome of this initial consideration falls within paragraph 6.1.3 (b)–(f) and the Complainant is unhappy with that decision, the Complainant shall have the right to request a review of that decision. The review will be considered by a Panel appointed in accordance with paragraph 6.4.

## 6.2. *Investigation*

- 6.2.1. Where a complaint is referred for investigation, the Senior Tutor will appoint a trained Investigator to carry out an investigation of the case. The role of the Investigator is to prepare a report that sets out the undisputed facts of the case and any points of difference, and makes recommendations based on the evidence and policies in place.
- 6.2.2. The Investigator shall conduct the investigation as they think fit, within the context of the general principles set out in paragraph 3. The Investigator may interview (with their consent) the Complainant and the Respondent and any other person involved in, or who witnessed, the events which are the subject of the complaint, and consider or request any other evidence which appears to the Investigator to be relevant. The Respondent will be reminded before they meet with the Investigator that they are entitled to seek independent legal advice. The Respondent will also be notified that they do not have to say anything and that no adverse inferences shall be drawn from

the Respondent's failure to attend for interview or otherwise participate in the investigation.

- 6.2.3. The Complainant and Respondent will be made aware that the College may be required to provide as evidence in any subsequent criminal investigation or proceedings in a court of law information regarding the complaint, including any admission made in the course of this procedure (and/or any made during mediation or any subsequent disciplinary proceedings) and that any admission made in the course of this procedure may also be used as evidence in College disciplinary proceedings, save that the College will abide by the confidentiality of any mediation, and anything which is said in the course of mediation will not be used in evidence in any College disciplinary proceedings.
- 6.2.4. The Investigator will offer to have individual meetings with the Complainant and with the Respondent, and may also seek to have a meeting with any witnesses (all of whom may be accompanied, as noted in paragraph 4.2). Each meeting will be minuted and the minutes agreed with those present as a correct record (or any disagreement noted). The Respondent will not be provided with a copy of the Complainant's written complaint in advance of the meeting with the Investigator but will be provided with information on the substance of the allegation(s). The notes of any individual meetings will not form part of the Investigator's report unless the consent of the respective party for their inclusion has been given.
- 6.2.5. Where the Respondent declines to cooperate with an investigation, the Investigator may still continue with the investigation in the absence of the Respondent's cooperation. The Senior Tutor shall draw no adverse inferences from the Respondent's failure to participate in the investigation.
- 6.2.6. The Investigator will aim to complete the investigation within twenty Working Days of the complaint being referred for investigation, but some cases may require longer, in which case the Investigator will keep the Complainant and the Respondent informed about progress.
- 6.2.7. The Investigator's report will normally be released to the Complainant and the Respondent, save that parts may be redacted where the Complainant or the Respondent or any witness reasonably objects.
- 6.2.8. On receipt of the Investigator's report, the Senior Tutor may:
  - (a) recommend to the Complainant and the Respondent that they should seek alternative resolution of the complaint;
  - (b) propose one or more of the resolutions set out in paragraph 6.3.1;
  - (c) refer the complaint for consideration under the College's disciplinary procedures;

- (d) dismiss the complaint because it is considered to be without merit or, in exceptional cases, as vexatious, frivolous or malicious;
  - (e) decide that no further action should be taken under this procedure.
- 6.2.9. The Complainant and the Respondent will normally be notified in writing of the decision of the Senior Tutor within twenty Working Days of the receipt of the Investigator's report.
- 6.2.10. In the event that a decision falls within paragraph 6.2.8 (a), (b), (d) or (e) and the Complainant is unhappy with that decision, the Complainant shall have the right to request a review of that decision in accordance with paragraph 6.4.

### 6.3. Resolutions

- 6.3.1. The Senior Tutor may propose a resolution to the complaint, which may include:
- (a) that the Respondent will agree to abide by a conduct agreement issued by the Senior Tutor, a record of which will be retained by the College and which may be taken into account if a further complaint is made against the Respondent under this procedure;
  - (b) that the Respondent change accommodation;
  - (c) with the prior approval of the relevant University body, that the Respondent will take a period of intermission from study;
  - (d) that the Respondent will attend behaviour awareness training or workshops.
- 6.3.2. Both the Complainant and the Respondent must agree to the proposed resolution of the complaint. The Senior Tutor will facilitate the process of reaching agreement between the Complainant and the Respondent and will issue written confirmation of any agreed resolution(s) to the Complainant and the Respondent.
- 6.3.3. If attempts at reaching an agreed resolution are unsuccessful, the Senior Tutor shall refer the complaint for consideration under the College's disciplinary procedures.
- 6.3.4. If there are grounds to believe that the Respondent has failed to comply with the terms of an agreed resolution, the Senior Tutor shall determine whether the complaint should be referred for consideration under the College's disciplinary procedures.

### 6.4. Review

- 6.4.1. The Complainant may seek a review of a decision made under this procedure.
- 6.4.2. The review will be carried out by a panel of three persons appointed by the Head of House. A request for a review shall be made in writing and sent to the Head of House within 15 Working Days of written notification of the relevant decision (unless, for good reason, the Head of House permits a longer period). The request

for review shall specify the grounds for review which may be only one or more of the following:

- (a) that there was material procedural irregularity in the consideration of the Complainant's complaint;
- (b) that there was bias or prejudice on the part of the decision-maker;
- (c) that the decision reached was perverse in that it was one which no reasonable decision-maker could have reached on the available evidence;
- (d) that new material evidence is available, which was not available and/or not presented for good reason at the time of the original decision.

6.4.3. The request for a review should be accompanied by supporting documentation.

6.4.4. The review panel will consider the request for review and the documentation available to the original decision-maker. The review panel may, at its discretion, hold a hearing and regulate arrangements for the conduct of the hearing.

6.4.5. The review panel will issue an adjudication in writing as soon as possible, which shall normally be within twenty Working Days of the receipt of the request for a review or (if a hearing is held) within ten Working Days of the hearing. The review panel shall have power to confirm, quash, or amend the original decision or refer it back to the decision-maker for further consideration.

6.4.6. If the review panel confirms the original decision, the Complainant will be issued with a Completion of Procedures letter when provided with the adjudication. If the review panel issues an amended decision then the Complainant will be offered a Completion of Procedures letter when provided with the adjudication. Where the Complainant remains dissatisfied with the outcome of the procedure, the Completion of Procedures letter will enable the student to submit a complaint to the external ombudsman, the Office of the Independent Adjudicator.

## 7. *Reporting*

7.1. An annual report of complaints considered under this procedure will be made to the College Council in which references to individual cases will be made anonymously.

7.2. The Senior Tutor will be responsible for the regular review of this procedure.

## **Appendix B1**

### **Code of Conduct for Students in respect of Harassment and Sexual Misconduct**

Girton College is committed to providing an environment that is free from discrimination and affirms the right of all members to be treated with dignity and respect. The College will not tolerate harassment of one member of its community by another nor sexual misconduct. The College will take allegations of harassment and sexual misconduct very seriously and may take action, including disciplinary action, in response to a complaint from a student.

In line with the University, the College defines harassment as single or repeated incidents involving unwanted or unwarranted conduct towards another person which it is reasonable to think would have the effect of (i) violating that other's dignity or (ii) creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating, or offensive environment for that other.

Harassment may be verbal, psychological or physical, in person or via a virtual platform or through other methods of contact. Harassment may occur in the course of an academic, sporting, social, cultural or other activity either within the Precincts of the University or elsewhere in the context of a person's membership of the University, or in circumstances where the victim of the harassment is a member, officer, or employee of the University or a College.

Under this Code of Conduct unacceptable behaviour, whether intentional or not, can take a variety of different forms. The following descriptions are not exhaustive, but give an indication of the types of behaviour which the University and the College consider to be unacceptable:

- making sexually offensive comments about dress or appearance, the display or distribution of sexually explicit material, or demands for sexual favours;
- engaging in harassment on the grounds of a person's sexuality (or assumptions about a person's sexuality) including making derogatory homophobic, transphobic or biphobic remarks or jokes aimed at a particular person, offensive comments relating to a person's sexuality, refusal to acknowledge a person's gender or identity, or threats to disclose a person's sexuality to others;
- making offensive references to a person's race, ethnicity, skin colour, religion or nationality, dress, culture, background or customs;
- ignoring, disparaging or ridiculing a person because of assumptions about their capabilities, or making offensive reference to an individual's appearance, in the context of their disability;
- controlling or coercive behaviour, such as pressure to subscribe to a particular political or religious belief.

Online harassment may take the form of intimidating, offensive or graphic posts on social media sites or chat rooms, or communications by email, text or instant messaging.

Sexual misconduct includes the following, whether or not within a sexual or romantic relationship, including where consent to some form of sexual activity has been given and then withdrawn, or if consent has been given on previous occasions:

- sexual intercourse or engaging in a sexual act without consent;
- attempting to engage in sexual intercourse or engaging in a sexual act without consent;
- sharing private sexual materials of another person without consent;
- kissing without consent;
- touching inappropriately through clothes without consent;
- inappropriately showing sexual organs to another person;
- repeatedly following another person without good reason.

## Appendix B2

### **Policy on the use of personal information under the Procedure for Handling Cases of Student Harassment and Sexual Misconduct**

***A copy is to be provided to the Complainant, the Respondent and any witnesses at the earliest contact.***

Girton College has published a general statement which explains how it uses students' personal information. The link to the Data Protection Policy can be found at: <https://www.girton.cam.ac.uk/data-protection-information/data-protection> . The Data Protection statement for students is on the following page: <https://www.girton.cam.ac.uk/data-protection-information/data-protection-statements> . This statement provides information about how the College will use your personal information if you are a Complainant or a Respondent or a witness in a case considered under the procedure for handling cases of student harassment and sexual misconduct. Most of the information is already covered by the general statement, but there are some additional uses of personal data that need to be brought to your attention.

1. A summary of the information you provide as part of your complaint or response to a complaint or as witness testimony and procedural notes (e.g. a record of any actions and decisions and the dates they were taken; the dates of meetings) will be stored in a computer database which can be accessed by staff in the Tutorial Office. This data will be used to compile anonymous statistics about the use of the procedure. Those involved in the case may also make notes at meetings with you; you will be given an opportunity to comment on a written-up copy of those notes so that they can become an agreed part of the record. The information held by the Senior Tutor may be shared with others in the course of dealing with the complaint, and will be treated confidentially in line with the College's general statement on use of personal information.
2. In the interest of fairness to all parties, the College will not normally accept an anonymous complaint under this procedure. It should be assumed that any information provided in support of the complaint, including the identity of the Complainant, will be provided to the Respondent. If you have concerns about the sharing of information between the Complainant and Respondent, you should seek advice from the Senior Tutor who has discretion to withhold information in exceptional circumstances.
3. The Senior Tutor and Tutor of either the student making the complaint or the student against whom the complaint has been made will normally be provided with a summary of the complaint, including the names of both parties, so that they are aware of the complaint and able to assist in providing support:

In some cases, it may also be deemed appropriate to inform the following:

Your Head of Department or Faculty

Your Supervisor (if you are a research student)

The College will aim to seek consent for sharing information with those listed above, but in exceptional cases may decide that such sharing of information is necessary, for example, because it is in the public interest or to protect the interests of the Complainant or the Respondent. These decisions will be taken on a case-by-case basis, bearing in mind all the circumstances of the particular case. You will be informed of our intention to share the information and the reasons before doing so.

If a complaint is referred for investigation under the procedure, the College will seek your permission for the release of your personal information as included in the Investigator's report before providing a copy of the report to the Complainant and the Respondent.

4. The College will normally respect the wishes of a person who is the victim of a crime and does not wish to report the matter to the Police. However, in exceptional circumstances, where the facts as they emerge give rise to concerns that there is a significant risk to members of the community, the Senior Tutor may make an executive decision to refer the matter to the Police. Unless there are exceptional reasons related to the case, the Complainant will be informed of the intention to report the matter to the Police and the reasons before doing so.
5. Any admission made in the course of this procedure (including any made in an agreement reached during mediation or during subsequent disciplinary proceedings) may be used as evidence in any subsequent proceedings in a court of law.
6. Any admission made in the course of this procedure may also be used as evidence in College disciplinary proceedings, but the College will abide by the confidentiality of a mediation agreement and will not seek to use it in evidence.
7. If you have any questions or concerns about this statement, please contact the Senior Tutor in the first instance.