



IAP Complaints Protocol

The IAP from time to time receives complaints, usually from individual prosecutors, against their organisation or even against governments. This protocol sets out the principles to which the IAP will adhere and the processes which the IAP will use when responding to such approaches.

1. The IAP will consider seriously and respond promptly to any allegation by a member of a serious breach of the IAP's Objects or Standards.
2. When such a complaint is received it will be referred promptly to an ad hoc committee consisting of :
 - a) the members of the Secretariat (President, Secretary-General and General Counsel);
 - b) one or more of the Vice-Presidents of the Association nominated by the President; and
 - c) two members of the Executive Committee nominated by the President.
3. The committee will consider what further information, if any, it requires from the complainant and shall consult with members of the Association and others as appropriate.
4. The President will write, in terms proposed by the committee, to the complainant asking for any further information required and asking the complainant if he/she is willing for the IAP to approach the person/organisation complained of.
5. In considering what action to take at all stages, the committee shall :
 - assess the seriousness of the complaint and whether it constitutes a serious breach of the IAP's Objects or Standards;
 - assess the impact of a range of possible responses from the IAP; and
 - consider whether assistance in addressing the complaint may be obtained from any IAP member in the jurisdiction concerned.
6. In formulating the response the committee shall keep in mind the Objects of the Association and the IAP's Standards but it shall be cautious when responding not to be perceived to be interfering improperly in the internal affairs of any jurisdiction or to do so.

7. If the committee considers that no response should be made, or if there is substantial uncertainty about the propriety or efficacy of responding, no response should be made.
8. Copies of the complaint, any response and the reasons for the response, or not responding, will be circulated to all members of the Executive Committee.
9. The committee will adopt the same procedure whether or not the person/organisation complained against is a member of the IAP.