



Independent Adjudication Service Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)

Business to Business (B2B)

B2B Service Rules

These Rules apply to application forms received by Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) on or after **8 March 2023** and should be read in conjunction with the guidance that can be found on the CEDR website.

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact us for further details.

NOTE: These Rules ONLY apply to complaints made by businesses that have entered into a contract for the provision of surveying activities with a firm regulated by RICS that has nominated CEDR to be its independent dispute resolution provider.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Independent Adjudication Service: Business to Business (“the B2B Service”) is administered by Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (“CEDR”). The B2B Service provides an informal and independent way of resolving disputes between a firm regulated by RICS that has nominated CEDR to be its independent dispute resolution provider (“the Company”) and their business customers (“the Customer”) – together known as “the Parties”. This is done by way of a voluntary adjudication process (“the Adjudication”).
- 1.2 To use the B2B Service, the Parties must both provide written consent to the Adjudication and pay the appropriate fee to CEDR (as set out at Rule 6.1). Following payment, the Customer must then send a completed application form (“the Application”) to CEDR setting out their complaint.
- 1.3 Where applicable under these Rules, an independent adjudicator will be appointed by CEDR from its Adjudication Panel to decide the outcome of the complaint (“the Adjudicator”). The Adjudicator’s decision (as set out at Rule 4.4) is binding on the Parties.
- 1.4 For the purposes of the B2B Service, a ‘Customer’ is a business that has entered into a contract with the Company for the provision of surveying activities as referred to in Rule 2.1.
- 1.5 Applications to the B2B Service will be accepted from Customers or their appointed representatives. A representative can only be appointed if:
 - 1.5.1 the Customer provides, with their application to the B2B Service, signed authority confirming that they agree to the representative acting on their behalf; or
 - 1.5.2 the representative provides, with the application to the B2B Service, a valid legal document giving them authority to act on the Customer’s behalf (e.g. a valid will or lasting power of attorney).
- 1.6 An adjudicator appointed under these Rules will make a decision by considering the information received from the Parties, and those laws, regulations, codes of practice, contracts and guidance documents that an adjudicator considers to be relevant. In

making a decision, an adjudicator will decide on the balance of probabilities whether or not the Company failed to provide its services to the Customer to the standard to be reasonably expected by the average person, and whether or not the Customer has suffered any financial loss or other disadvantage as a result of a failing by the Company.

- 1.7 Any decision made by an adjudicator applies only to the specific complaint referred to the B2B Service. Under no circumstances do decisions made by adjudicators set precedents for other complaints.

2. What the B2B Service covers

- 2.1 The B2B Service can be used to resolve a complaint made by a Customer about one or more surveying activities provided by a Company and/or the quality of customer service provided by a Company to the Customer.

For clarity, “surveying activities” are the activities set out under Article 3 of the RICS Royal Charter, which can be found at www.rics.org/globalassets/rics-website/media/governance/royal-charter/, subject to the exclusions set out at Rule 2.2.

- 2.2 The B2B Service cannot consider complaints, or parts of complaints, which fall into one or more of the following categories:
- 2.2.1 applications made to the B2B Service by (or, in the case of nominated representatives under Rule 1.5, on behalf of) someone who does not fall within the definition of a ‘Customer’ set out at Rule 1.4;
 - 2.2.2 complaints made against a firm that is not regulated by RICS and/or that has not nominated CEDR to be its independent dispute resolution provider;
 - 2.2.3 applications made to the B2B Service where written consent to the Adjudication has not been provided by both Parties;
 - 2.2.4 applications received by the B2B Service more than 12 months from the date on which the Parties consented to use the B2B Service, unless the Parties agree to extend this timeframe;
 - 2.2.5 complaints that contain no aspect relating to the issues set out at Rule 2.1;
 - 2.2.6 applications where a total sum has been claimed that exceeds £50,000.00 (inclusive of VAT (if any)) (this sum includes any claims for compensation, refunds, credits and/or waivers);

- 2.2.7 complaints, which in the opinion of CEDR, are more appropriately dealt with by a court, regulatory body, or other formal process;
- 2.2.8 complaints that CEDR considers to be frivolous and/or vexatious;
- 2.2.9 complaints that are the subject of either:
 - 2.2.9.1 an existing application made by the Customer; or
 - 2.2.9.2 a previous valid application made by the Customer that reached a resolution through the B2B Service;
- 2.2.10 complaints that have been, or are, the subject of court proceedings or an alternative independent procedure for the determination of disputes (unless such proceedings or alternative procedure have been abandoned, stayed or suspended);
- 2.2.11 complaints about the fairness of the Company's general commercial practices and/or commercial decisions;
- 2.2.12 complaints about one or more of the following matters:
 - 2.2.12.1 fraud or other criminal matters;
 - 2.2.12.2 data protection;
 - 2.2.12.3 personal injury;
 - 2.2.12.4 discrimination;
 - 2.2.12.5 a valuation figure, unless it is about one or more alleged defects in the property that were not identified by the Company when reaching the valuation figure;
 - 2.2.12.6 property and/or land boundaries;
 - 2.2.12.7 lettings and/or estate agency;
 - 2.2.12.8 right to light;
 - 2.2.12.9 party walls;
 - 2.2.12.10 one or more expert witnesses and/or expert witness reports;
 - 2.2.12.11 complaints where work has been carried out by the Company subject to a Joint Contracts Tribunal (JCT) contract;
 - 2.2.12.12 the amount of compensation the Customer receives from a third-party following work or services carried out by the Company.
- 2.2.13 complaints that have been agreed by the Parties to be settled before the date on which the Application was sent to the Company (in line with Rule 4.1.3), unless CEDR considers that the terms of that settlement have not been fulfilled within a reasonable time;

- 2.2.14 where, in the opinion of CEDR, the details of the complaint set out in the Application materially differ from the details that were provided by the Customer when complaining to the Company;
 - 2.2.15 applications where the Customer has not requested any of the remedies set out at Rule 3.2;
 - 2.2.16 complaints that would seriously impair the effective operation of CEDR if considered.
- 2.3 If the whole complaint falls outside the scope of the B2B Service, it will be withdrawn from the B2B Service. If part of the complaint falls outside the scope of the B2B Service but part is in scope, only the part that is in scope will proceed (unless it is not practicable to do so).
- 2.4 Any complaint, or part of a complaint, that falls outside the scope of the B2B Service can proceed if the Company gives its express agreement for this to happen.
- 2.5 Making an application to the B2B Service does not take away the Customer's duty to pay the Company any amounts billed or charged.
- 2.6 Applying to use the B2B Service does not remove the Customer's right to bring a claim to court, and they may withdraw their complaint from the B2B Service at any stage before a decision has been issued (in line with Rule 4.4). Customers should note, however, that court proceedings may result in a different outcome to that provided by the B2B Service.
- 2.7 The Company may not abandon the Adjudication by ceasing to nominate CEDR as its independent dispute resolution provider or by ceasing to be regulated by RICS. In the event that the Company ceases to nominate CEDR as its independent dispute resolution provider and/or ceases to be regulated by RICS, this will:
- 2.7.1 not prevent any applications that the Company has already been notified of (in line with Rule 4.1.3) from continuing through the Adjudication process; and
 - 2.7.2 not affect the Company's obligation to comply with any resolution reached through the B2B Service (whether by settlement or by adjudication) in respect of any applications that the Company has already been notified of (in line with Rule 4.1.3).

3. Applying to use the B2B Service

3.1 To apply to use the B2B Service, the Parties must both provide written consent to the Adjudication and to pay the appropriate fee to CEDR (as set out at Rule 6.1). Upon receipt of the Parties' consent to use the B2B Service, and to be bound by the outcome, CEDR will submit to the Parties invoices for payment of the adjudication fee (split equally between the Parties). Following CEDR's receipt of the Parties' payment of the appropriate fee, the Customer will be sent an application form to complete. The Customer must then send to CEDR a completed application form to CEDR, setting out their complaint. This can be done by post or online. If a customer requires any special assistance with their application they can contact CEDR and reasonable adjustments will be made in line with CEDR's reasonable adjustments policy, which can be found [here](#).

3.2 In the Application, the Customer must request at least one of the following remedies from the Company (the requested remedies must be able to be directed by an adjudicator in line with Rule 5.4, and must only affect and/or apply to the Customer):

- 3.2.1 an apology that relates to the quality of customer service provided by the Company;
- 3.2.2 a product or service;
- 3.2.3 some practical action to be taken by the Company;
- 3.2.4 a payment that must total no more than £50,000.00 (including VAT (if any)) (this sum includes any claims for compensation, refunds, credits and/or waivers);
- 3.2.5 a payment that must total no more than £1,000.00 (including VAT) for any distress and/or inconvenience that the Customer has suffered as a result of the matters complained of.

N.B. For clarity, any payment requested under Rule 3.2.5 is included in the monetary limit set out at Rule 3.2.4.

3.3 The Application should include details of:

- 3.3.1 the product and/or service provided by the Company that the complaint is about;

- 3.3.2 the background to the complaint;
- 3.3.3 the precise issues that are in dispute;
- 3.3.4 the steps already taken to attempt to reach a resolution with the Company;
- 3.3.5 the reasons for requesting the remedy or remedies asked for; and
- 3.3.6 the reasons for the amount of any money requested, including any amount requested for distress and/or inconvenience.

3.4 The Customer should provide with the Application any relevant documents and/or evidence that supports their complaint. It is the Parties' responsibility to provide the documents and/or evidence that they wish to rely on. CEDR only has access to information and evidence that the Parties have specifically provided in connection with the complaint.

3.5 The Customer is encouraged to clarify the remedy or remedies requested in as much detail as possible, but a failure to do this will not make the Application invalid unless Rule 2.2.15 applies.

4. The Adjudication process

4.1 The Application

- 4.1.1 When the Application is received along with any supporting documents, CEDR will make an initial assessment within 15 working days as to whether or not the Application appears to meet the requirements of Rules 2 and 3 (NB. This initial assessment does not prevent the complaint from being withdrawn from the B2B Service at a later date in line with the objection process (at Rule 4.2) or an adjudicator's powers (at Rule 5.2)).
- 4.1.2 When the Application is processed by CEDR, a case reference number will be given to the Parties. The Parties must quote this case reference number in all communication with CEDR regarding the complaint.
- 4.1.3 If the Application is initially assessed as appearing to meet the requirements of Rules 2 and 3, CEDR will notify the Company by sending an electronic copy of the Application, and any supporting documents that the Customer has provided, to the Company ("the Notification").
- 4.1.4 If CEDR sends the Notification to the Company before 4.00pm, the Company is considered to have received it on that day. If CEDR sends the Notification at

or after 4.00pm, the Company is considered to have received it on the following working day.

4.15 Once the Notification is considered to have been received by the Company, the Company has 15 working days to take one of the following actions (in exceptional circumstances, CEDR may, at its own discretion, grant the Company an extension to this deadline):

4.1.5.1 object, in line with Rule 4.2, to the complaint being considered by CEDR to fall within the scope of the B2B Service; or

4.1.5.2 submit to CEDR its written response to the Customer's complaint ("the Response") in line with Rule 4.3.

4.16 Once the Application is submitted to CEDR, an amendment to any aspect of it, or addition of further evidence or submissions, can only be requested by the Customer if none of the following apply:

4.1.6.1 the complaint has been withdrawn in line with Rule 4.2 because it is out of scope;

4.1.6.2 the Company has submitted the Response to the complaint in line with Rule 4.3.

If the Customer requests to amend any aspect of the Application or to add further evidence or submissions, they must contact CEDR with the amendments and/or additions and give reasons why they should be taken into account. It will be at the sole discretion of CEDR whether or not to allow this. If it is allowed, the Company will be sent the updated information and the timeframe for the Company to take one of the actions in Rule 4.1.5 will be restarted.

4.2 **Objections**

4.2.1 Within the timeframe at Rule 4.1.5, the Company can object to the complaint being considered by CEDR to fall within the scope of the B2B Service. For clarity, the Company can object if it considers the complaint to fall partly or entirely outside the scope of the B2B Service.

4.2.2 In making an objection, the Company must contact CEDR and specify one or more reasons in Rule 2.2 as to why part or all of the complaint falls outside the scope of the B2B Service. The Company must show why part or all of the complaint falls outside the scope of the B2B Service.

- 4.2.3 An adjudicator will consider the objection and decide whether or not they agree that the Company has shown that part or all of the complaint falls outside the scope of the B2B Service. CEDR will aim to communicate this to the Parties within two working days of the objection being received.
- 4.2.4 When an objection is made, the timeframe at Rule 4.1.5 will be put on hold until the outcome of the objection is communicated to the Parties by CEDR.
- 4.2.5 If an adjudicator does not agree that the Company has shown that any part of the complaint falls outside the scope of the B2B Service, the objection will be rejected. If the objection is rejected, the complaint will remain active and an additional two working days will be added to the remaining timeframe in Rule 4.1.5 for the Company to request a Remedy Review, to settle the complaint, to make a further objection or to submit the Response to CEDR. This time extension can only be applied once, and no time extensions will be given to any subsequent rejected objections. If an adjudicator is subsequently appointed to make a decision on the complaint, all details of the objection will be given to that adjudicator.
- 4.2.6 If an adjudicator agrees that the Company has shown that all of the complaint falls outside the scope of the B2B Service, the objection will be upheld. If the objection is upheld, the Customer will be given 10 working days to provide reasons and/or further evidence as to why part or all of the complaint falls within the scope of the B2B Service, if they wish to do so. An adjudicator will then consider whether or not to reject the objection (NB. The adjudicator may agree to only part of the complaint continuing). CEDR will aim to communicate this to the Parties within two working days. At this point, it is for the Customer to show why part or all of the complaint falls within the scope of the B2B Service.
- 4.2.7 If an adjudicator agrees that the Company has shown that part of the complaint falls outside the scope of the B2B Service, the objection will be upheld in relation to that part only. If the objection is upheld in relation to that part, the Customer will be given 10 working days to provide reasons and/or further evidence as to why part or all of the complaint falls within the scope of the B2B Service, if they wish to do so. An adjudicator will then consider whether or not to reject the objection (NB. The adjudicator may agree to only part of the complaint continuing). CEDR will aim to communicate this to the Parties

within two working days. At this point, it is for the Customer to show why part or all of the complaint falls within the scope of the B2B Service.

- 4.2.8 Following the completion of the relevant process under either Rule 4.2.6 or Rule 4.2.7, if an adjudicator decides that part or all of the complaint falls within the scope of the B2B Service, the objection will be rejected and the timeframe will be restarted for the Company to take one of the actions in Rule 4.1.5. If an adjudicator decides that no part of the complaint falls within the scope of the B2B Service, the complaint will be withdrawn from the B2B Service. The decision to withdraw the complaint from the B2B Service is final and cannot be reviewed or appealed.

4.3 The Response

- 4.3.1 When CEDR receives the Response, a copy of it will be sent to the Customer.
- 4.3.2 If the Company does not submit the Response to CEDR within the timeframe set out at Rule 4.1.5 (including any relevant variations to this timeframe made in Rules 4.2), the Adjudicator will have the power to make a decision considering only the information provided by the Customer as set out at Rule 5.2.3.
- 4.3.3 The Customer has five working days from the date on which the Response is sent to them to provide any comments on the Response (in exceptional circumstances, CEDR may, at its own discretion, grant the Customer an extension of the deadline for providing comments on the Response). The Customer does not have to provide comments on the Response. If the Customer does provide comments on the Response, those comments can only relate to points raised in the Response and must not introduce any new matters. Any new matters put forward by the Customer at this stage will not be taken into account by the Adjudicator when making their decision.
- 4.3.4 If the Customer makes any comments on the Response, CEDR will send a copy of those comments to the Company for their information only.
- 4.3.5 Upon receipt of the Customer's comments on the Response, or the expiry of the timeframe at Rule 4.3.3, CEDR will appoint the Adjudicator to decide the outcome of the complaint.
- 4.3.6 Any further comments, information and/or evidence received from the Parties after this point will be sent to the Adjudicator. However, the Adjudicator will have the power to decide whether or not to take some or all of the comments,

information and/or evidence into account (as set out at Rule 5.2). If the Adjudicator decides to take such further comments, information and/or evidence into account, these will be shared with the other party for their information only.

4.4 **The Proposed and Final Decisions**

- 4.4.1 The Adjudicator appointed under these Rules will produce a written proposed decision on the complaint (“the Proposed Decision”) by considering the information received from the Parties, and those laws, regulations, codes of practice, contracts and guidance documents that the Adjudicator considers to be relevant. The Proposed Decision will generally be issued within 10 working days of the Adjudicator being appointed by CEDR in line with Rule 4.3.5.
- 4.4.2 The Proposed Decision will be set out in writing and will include full reasons for the outcome reached.
- 4.4.3 Once CEDR receives the Proposed Decision from the Adjudicator, it will be sent to the Parties simultaneously.
- 4.4.4 The Parties have 10 working days from the date on which the Proposed Decision is sent to them to provide any comments on the Proposed Decision (in exceptional circumstances, CEDR may, at its own discretion, grant the Parties an extension of the deadline for providing comments on the Proposed Decision). The Parties do not have to provide comments on the Proposed Decision. If one or both of the Parties do provide comments on the Proposed Decision, those comments can only relate to points raised in the complaint and must not introduce any new matters. Any new matters put forward by the Parties at this stage will not be taken into account by the Adjudicator.
- 4.4.5 If one or both of the Parties make any comments on the Proposed Decision, CEDR will send a copy of those comments to the other party for their information only.
- 4.4.6 Any comments on the Proposed Decision provided by the Parties will be forwarded to the Adjudicator, who will consider such comments (subject to the restrictions set out at Rule 4.4.4). The Adjudicator has the power to make any amendments they consider appropriate to the Proposed Decision before producing a written final decision on the complaint (“the Final Decision”). The Final Decision will generally be issued within five working days of the expiry of the timeframe set out at Rule 4.4.4.

- 4.4.7 Any further comments, information and/or evidence received from the Parties after the expiry of the timeframe set out at Rule 4.4.4, but before the Final Decision is issued, will be sent to the Adjudicator. However, the Adjudicator will have the power to decide whether or not to take some or all of the comments, information and/or evidence into account (as set out at Rule 5.2). If the Adjudicator decides to take such further comments, information and/or evidence into account, these will be shared with the other party for their information only.
- 4.4.8 In exceptional circumstances, the Adjudicator may issue a further Proposed Decision after receiving comments from one or more of the Parties. This further Proposed Decision will override any previous Proposed Decision. In these circumstances, the same process set out under Rules 4.4.2 to 4.4.7 (inclusive) will be followed.
- 4.4.9 Once CEDR receives the Final Decision from the Adjudicator, it will be sent to the Parties simultaneously.
- 4.4.10 The Final Decision is binding on the Parties.
- 4.4.11 The Adjudicator's Final Decision is final. It cannot be reviewed or appealed. Any further comments, information and/or evidence received from the Parties after the Final Decision has been issued will not be considered.

4.5 **Compliance with the Final Decision**

- 4.5.1 If the Final Decision directs the Company to take any of the actions set out at Rule 5.4, the Company must comply with the Final Decision by completing the necessary action(s) within 20 working days from the date on which CEDR notifies the Company of the Customer's acceptance of the Final Decision.
- 4.5.2 If the Company is, for any reason, unable to comply with the Final Decision within the timeframe in Rule 4.5.1, the Company must notify CEDR why this is before the timeframe expires. At the same time, the Company must provide a substitute date by which it will comply with the Final Decision.
- 4.5.3 If the Customer considers that the Company has not complied with the Final Decision within the timeframe set out at Rule 4.5.1, or any substitute timeframe in Rule 4.5.2, the Customer must notify CEDR. When notifying CEDR of this, the Customer must detail which of the remedies have not been provided. Upon the Customer notifying CEDR that one or more remedies remain outstanding, CEDR will consider whether or not the Final Decision appears to have been

complied with. If CEDR considers that the Final Decision appears to have been complied with, the complaint will be closed as resolved. If CEDR considers that the Final Decision does not appear to have been complied with, CEDR will contact the Company to request that it complies within 10 working days.

4.5.4 In the event that a dispute arises between the Parties regarding compliance at any point, the Adjudicator will determine whether the Company has complied with the Final Decision. If the Adjudicator determines that the Company has complied with the Final Decision, the complaint will be closed as resolved. If the Adjudicator determines that the Company has not complied with the Final Decision, CEDR will contact the Company to request that it complies within 10 working days.

4.5.5 In the event that non-compliance with the Final Decision continues, CEDR will notify RICS. CEDR can also take further appropriate action, which may include suspension or termination of the Company's ability to use the B2B Service, and CEDR will notify RICS of any further action taken.

4.5.6 CEDR is unable to enforce compliance with the Final Decision, nor is CEDR able to apply penalties or sanctions to the Company for non-compliance with the Final Decision.

5. Powers of the adjudicator

5.1 Adjudicators will be fair and unbiased throughout the Adjudication process and will make decisions that are based on the information received from the Parties, and those laws, regulations, codes of practice, contracts and guidance documents that an adjudicator considers to be relevant. Adjudicators will act as quickly and efficiently as possible, considering complaints in a fair and reasonable way.

5.2 An adjudicator has the power to do any of the following:

5.2.1 change any of the time limits set out in these Rules;

5.2.2 request further comments and/or evidence from the Parties, and set time limits within which the Parties must provide such comments and/or evidence;

5.2.3 proceed with the Adjudication process if either of the Parties does not keep to these Rules, or any instruction or direction made under these Rules;

5.2.4 consult any evidence not provided by either of the Parties, which the adjudicator considers to be necessary to make a decision. If this power is used,

the Parties must be given an opportunity to provide comments on this evidence (NB. This power does not apply to evidence that the Parties ought reasonably to be aware of or have access to; the law, any legal or regulatory requirements; and, any other published industry guidance);

5.2.5 take into account any evidence provided by either of the Parties that the adjudicator considers to be relevant to matters already raised in the complaint. If this power is used, the party that did not provide the evidence must be given an opportunity to comment on it;

5.2.6 withdraw a complaint from the B2B Service if, in their opinion, the entirety of the complaint falls outside the scope of the B2B Service (this decision cannot be reviewed or appealed);

5.2.7 determine whether or not the Company has complied with the Final Decision, in the event that a dispute arises between the Parties regarding compliance.

5.3 Neither of the Parties can challenge an adjudicator's use or non-use of the powers set out at Rule 5.2.

5.4 If the Adjudicator finds that the Customer's complaint succeeds in full or in part, they can direct the Company to:

5.4.1 provide the Customer with a written apology that relates to the quality of customer service provided by the Company (NB. the Adjudicator cannot direct an apology from a specific individual or team);

5.4.2 provide the Customer with one or more of the Company's available products and/or services;

5.4.3 take an action that they consider the Company can reasonably carry out;

5.4.4 pay the Customer a sum of money that does not exceed £50,000.00 (including VAT (if any)) (this sum includes any claims for compensation, refunds, credits and/or waivers);

5.4.5 pay the Customer a sum of money that does not exceed £1,000.00 (including VAT) for any distress and/or inconvenience that the Customer has suffered as a result of the matters complained of.

NB.

- The remedies directed by the Adjudicator must only affect and/or apply to the Customer.

- The Adjudicator will not be able to direct the Company to take an action in breach of applicable laws and/or regulations.
- The Adjudicator will not be able to direct the Company to take an action that affects its commercial practices and/or commercial decisions.
- The maximum amount that can be awarded under Rule 5.4.4 includes any and all sums awarded under Rules 5.4.4 and 5.4.5.
- The Adjudicator's powers under Rules 5.4.2 to 5.4.5 (inclusive) are subject to an overall monetary limit of £50,000.00 (inclusive of VAT (if any)). For clarity, this overall monetary limit on the Adjudicator's powers to direct remedies includes all sums awarded as compensation, refunds, credits and/or waivers, as well as the costs incurred by the Company in providing any products or services directed, and in carrying out any action directed.

5.5 The Adjudicator may award less than has been previously offered to the Customer by the Company. In exceptional circumstances, the Adjudicator may award more than has been requested by the Customer.

5.6 If the Adjudicator finds that the Customer's complaint does not succeed, they will not direct the Company to take any of the actions set out at Rule 5.4.

6. Costs

6.1 The Parties are both responsible for paying CEDR the fee for use of the B2B Service in equal shares (unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, and by CEDR). The fee must be paid by the Parties in advance and is calculated at the rate of either:

6.1.1 £500.00 for complaints where the amount claimed by the Customer is £18,000.00 or less; or

6.1.2 3% of the total amount claimed by the Customer, where the amount claimed is £18,000.01 or higher.

All fees are subject to VAT. The Adjudication will only proceed once the fee has been paid in full. By using the B2B Service, the Parties agree not to take legal action against the other to recover fees paid to CEDR.

6.2 Neither of the Parties needs to use legal representation, although either can do so if they wish.

6.3 The Parties must pay their own costs of using the B2B Service.

6.4 If either of the Parties incurs costs through the use of legal representation and/or using the B2B Service, the Parties agree not to claim the costs of doing so from each other, whether through the B2B Service or through legal action.

7. Confidentiality and data sharing

7.1 Neither of the Parties will give details of the Adjudication, including the Proposed and Final Decisions, to any person or organisation not directly involved in the Adjudication, unless:

7.1.1 it is necessary in order to enforce the Final Decision;

7.1.2 it is necessary in order to seek advice on pursuing the complaint in an alternative forum;

7.1.3 it is necessary in order to seek redress from an alternative forum; or

7.1.4 CEDR gives its express written consent for such details to be shared.

7.2 By using the B2B Service, the Parties agree that CEDR may gather, retain and publish statistics and other information in relation to complaints, whilst preserving the anonymity of the Parties.

7.3 The United Kingdom General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) applies to the B2B Service, and all data provided to CEDR in relation to complaints may be shared with RICS, by CEDR or the Customer, including all personal data.

7.4 By using the B2B Service, the Customer gives their consent for any relevant personal data held by the Company to be shared with CEDR and the Adjudicator for the purposes of the Adjudication process.

8. Other rules

- 8.1 CEDR will appoint a substitute adjudicator if the Adjudicator originally appointed is unable to deal with the complaint for any reason. CEDR will inform the Parties if such an appointment is made.
- 8.2 With the exception of amending the Final Decision following any minor error and/or providing clarification on a specific point in the Final Decision, neither CEDR nor an adjudicator will enter into correspondence with the Parties relating to the Final Decision.
- 8.3 If either of the Parties has a complaint about the quality of service provided by CEDR, the complaint should be made through the published complaints procedure, copies of which are available on the CEDR website (NB. the complaints procedure cannot be used to challenge the content or outcome of an adjudicator's decision, the decision process adopted by an adjudicator, or the content of these Rules).
- 8.4 If either of the Parties sends physical documents and/or evidence to CEDR, digital copies will be made and the physical documents and/or evidence will be immediately and securely destroyed, unless the party requests their return (this request must be made at the same time as the physical documents and/or evidence are sent to CEDR). CEDR does not keep any physical documents and/or evidence on its premises.
- 8.5 Any reference in these Rules to 'working days' excludes Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays (i.e. bank holidays) celebrated in England and Wales. Any reference in these Rules to a specified time of day refers to United Kingdom local time.
- 8.6 The B2B Service, including these Rules, may be updated from time to time. The Rules in force on the date CEDR receives the Customer's Application will apply to the complaint.
- 8.7 Where a Final Decision has been issued, CEDR and/or RICS may publish a case summary of that Final Decision on its website. The case summary will not contain any personal details of the Parties.
- 8.8 Translations of original documents may be submitted if the Parties agree to this.



8.9 The B2B Service covers all firms as defined at Rule 1.1 registered to provide surveying activities in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

