

DIY Flight Delay Compensation Guide (UK)

This guide explains how passengers in the United Kingdom can pursue compensation for delayed, cancelled, or disrupted flights under UK passenger rights regulations.

1. What Is Flight Delay Compensation?

Passengers may be entitled to compensation where a flight arrives more than 3 hours late and the airline is responsible for the disruption. These rights are commonly referred to as UK261 regulations.

2. Flights That May Qualify

You may qualify if:

- Your flight arrived over 3 hours late
 - Your flight was cancelled with short notice
 - You were denied boarding due to overbooking
 - The airline was responsible for the delay
 - Your flight departed from the UK or EU
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3. Compensation Amounts

Flight Type	Delay	Potential Compensation
Under 1,500km	3+ hours	Up to £220
1,500km – 3,500km	3+ hours	Up to £350
Over 3,500km	4+ hours	Up to £520

4. Extraordinary Circumstances

Airlines may reject claims where delays were caused by extraordinary circumstances beyond their control, including:

- Severe weather
- Airport closures
- Air traffic control restrictions
- Political instability
- Security threats

Technical faults and staffing shortages are often still claimable.

5. Evidence You Should Keep

Keep copies of:

- Boarding passes
 - Booking confirmations
 - Delay notifications
 - Photos of airport information screens
 - Expense receipts
 - Airline correspondence
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6. How to Make a DIY Claim

Step 1 – Check your eligibility

Step 2 – Contact the airline directly

Step 3 – Attach supporting evidence

Step 4 – Escalate the matter if necessary through ADR or court proceedings

7. Sample Complaint Letter

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to request compensation under UK261 regulations regarding flight [FLIGHT NUMBER] on [DATE].

The flight arrived approximately [X HOURS] late and I believe I am entitled to compensation.

Please find attached supporting documentation.

Yours faithfully,
[NAME]

8. Escalating Your Claim

If the airline rejects or ignores your claim, you may:

- Use the airline's Alternative Dispute Resolution scheme
 - Seek guidance from the UK Civil Aviation Authority
 - Consider legal proceedings if appropriate
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Prepared for educational and informational purposes only.

This guide does not constitute legal advice.