



# OBJECTION AND APPEAL

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*a PNO grants management & compliance company*

# What can you do if you disagree with a grant application decision?

For many applicants, the rejection of all or part of a grant application or the reduction of the grant often means that the case is closed. After all, the grant provider is a government, and ‘you can’t change much’ about a government decision. Fortunately, in practice it is different.

## **Contesting a government decision starts with a thorough check**

A government decision can be challenged. That is the good news. But when it comes to grants, you have to be very alert. This is because grant law involves numerous separate decision moments: the decision on the application, an advance payment, an interim change, the determination, and even after the grant project has ended there may

be a decision relating to the recovery of excess funds received. Objections and appeals against these decisions are possible. But this only makes sense if it is done in time (the deadline is six weeks after a decision) and if there are valid arguments to challenge the decision. It is therefore of the utmost importance to check each decision immediately:

- has there been a miscommunication or other lack of clarity?
- are the facts correct?
- have the regulations and policies been correctly applied?



## A good chance of success

Our lawyers have a great deal of advisory and litigation experience. This translates into a high success rate and a clear and tested service. This service can be divided into four phases:



**Preliminary phase:** before a decision is actually made, there are often good opportunities to influence the administrative body. We advise you on how to reply to a questionnaire, how to respond to a proposed decision and what evidence you should provide to back up your submission.



**Process advice:** we analyse the decision and examine the arguments that you can put forward. You will then receive our advice, properly substantiated, on the likelihood of success of an objection or appeal procedure and an overview of the costs involved. We also look at possible practical solutions to the situation that has arisen. This way, you can make a well-considered decision on whether or not to start a procedure.



**Objection or appeal letter:** in close consultation with you, we draft the objection or appeal letter. We go into the facts, the policy and grant rules and the current case law of the administrative policy and grant rules and the current case law of the administrative courts.



**Legal representation:** we represent you during the entire procedure, including the hearing. We monitor the deadlines and correspond with the grant provider or the court.

## Grant law expertise is thin on the ground in the Netherlands

Lawyers specialised in grant law are worth their weight in gold. They really are! The combination of legal expertise with knowledge of grants and the relevant sectors is scarce - even the larger legal service providers do not offer such expertise, or only at very considerable rates. Our knowledge combination also contributes to a high success rate. Thanks to careful consideration beforehand and - when actually conducting objection or appeal proceedings - our maximum commitment, we are able to turn the majority of these cases into successes.

### Get to know us

Would you like to meet our grant law experts? Just give us a call: +31 (0) 88 838 1381 or send an email with your question to [info@ffiqs.com](mailto:info@ffiqs.com) and we will quickly put you in touch with one of our grant law experts.



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### **About ffiqs**

ffiqs was founded in 2018, which means we are still a young organisation, but one with more than 30 years of experience! That is because before ffiqs was established, our experts were employed by PNO Consultants, market leader in the Netherlands and Europe in the field of grants and innovation.

That ffiqs was founded in 2018 is no coincidence. That was the year in which the GDPR came into force in the Netherlands and the rest of the EU, and because grants management frequently involves the use of personal data, PNO decided to place its grants management activities in a separate company: ffiqs.

### **Would you like to know more?**

Would you like to know more about our objection and appeal service? If so, please call or email us.

### **ffiqs B.V.**

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ffiqs is a grant management and compliance company and is a separate legal entity belonging to PNO Group Holding B.V.

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