
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2006 No. 177

The Service Provision Change (Protection of Employment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006

Duty to inform and consult representatives

13.—(1) In this regulation and regulations 14 and 15 references to affected employees, in relation to a service provision change, are to any employees of the transferor or the transferee (whether or not assigned to the organised grouping of resources or employees that is the subject of a service provision change) who may be affected by the change or may be affected by measures taken in connection with it; and references to the employer shall be construed accordingly.

(2) Long enough before a service provision change to enable the employer of any affected employees to consult the appropriate representatives of any affected employees, the employer shall inform those representatives of—

- (a) the fact that the change is to take place, the date or proposed date of the change and the reasons for it;
- (b) the legal, economic and social implications of the change for any affected employees;
- (c) the measures which he envisages he will, in connection with the change, take in relation to any affected employees or, if he envisages that no measures will be so taken, that fact; and
- (d) if the employer is the transferor, the measures, in connection with the change, which he envisages the transferee will take in relation to any affected employees who will become employees of the transferee after the change by virtue of regulation 4 or, if he envisages that no measures will be so taken, that fact.

(3) For the purposes of this regulation the appropriate representatives of any affected employees are—

- (a) if the employees are of a description in respect of which an independent trade union is recognised by their employer, representatives of the trade union; or
- (b) in any other case, whichever of the following employee representatives the employer chooses—
 - (i) employee representatives appointed or elected by the affected employees otherwise than for the purposes of this regulation, who (having regard to the purposes for, and the method by which they were appointed or elected) have authority from those employees to receive information and to be consulted about the transfer on their behalf;
 - (ii) employee representatives elected by any affected employees, for the purposes of this regulation, in an election satisfying the requirements of regulation 14(1).

(4) The transferee shall give the transferor such information at such a time as will enable the transferor to perform the duty imposed on him by virtue of paragraph (2)(d).

(5) The information which is to be given to the appropriate representatives shall be given to each of them by being delivered to them, or sent by post to an address notified by them to the employer, or (in the case of representatives of a trade union) sent by post to the trade union at the address of its head or main office.

(6) An employer of an affected employee who envisages that he will take measures in relation to an affected employee, in connection with the service provision change, shall consult the appropriate representatives of that employee with a view to seeking their agreement to the intended measures.

(7) In the course of those consultations the employer shall—

- (a) consider any representations made by the appropriate representatives; and
- (b) reply to those representations and, if he rejects any of those representations, state his reasons.

(8) The employer shall allow the appropriate representatives access to any affected employees and shall afford to those representatives such accommodation and other facilities as may be appropriate.

(9) If in any case there are special circumstances which render it not reasonably practicable for an employer to perform a duty imposed on him by any of paragraphs (2) to (7), he shall take all such steps towards performing that duty as are reasonably practicable in the circumstances.

(10) Where—

- (a) the employer has invited any of the affected employee to elect employee representatives; and
- (b) the invitation was issued long enough before the time when the employer is required to give information under paragraph (2) to allow them to elect representatives by that time,

the employer shall be treated as complying with the requirements of this regulation in relation to those employees if he complies with those requirements as soon as is reasonably practicable after the election of the representatives.

(11) If, after the employer has invited any affected employees to elect representatives, they fail to do so within a reasonable time, he shall give to any affected employees the information set out in paragraph (2).

(12) The duties imposed on an employer by this regulation shall apply irrespective of whether the decision resulting in the service provision change is taken by the employer or a person controlling the employer.