



Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992

1992 CHAPTER 52

PART IV

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

CHAPTER II

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING REDUNDANCIES

Duty of employer to consult trade union representatives

188 Duty of employer to consult trade union representatives

- (1) An employer proposing to dismiss as redundant an employee of a description in respect of which an independent trade union is recognised by him shall consult representatives of the union about the dismissal in accordance with this section.
- (2) The consultation must begin at the earliest opportunity, and in any event—
 - (a) where the employer is proposing to dismiss as redundant 100 or more employees at one establishment within a period of 90 days or less, at least 90 days before the first of those dismissals takes effect;
 - (b) where the employer is proposing to dismiss as redundant at least 10 but less than 100 employees at one establishment within a period of 30 days or less, at least 30 days before the first of those dismissals takes effect.
- (3) In determining how many employees an employer is proposing to dismiss as redundant no account shall be taken of employees in respect of whose proposed dismissals consultation has already begun.
- (4) For the purposes of the consultation the employer shall disclose in writing to the trade union representatives—

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- (a) the reasons for his proposals,
 - (b) the numbers and descriptions of employees whom it is proposed to dismiss as redundant,
 - (c) the total number of employees of any such description employed by the employer at the establishment in question,
 - (d) the proposed method of selecting the employees who may be dismissed, and
 - (e) the proposed method of carrying out the dismissals, with due regard to any agreed procedure, including the period over which the dismissals are to take effect.
- (5) That information shall be delivered to the trade union representatives, or sent by post to an address notified by them to the employer, or sent by post to the union at the address of its head or main office.
- (6) In the course of the consultation the employer shall—
- (a) consider any representations made by the trade union representatives, and
 - (b) reply to those representations and, if he rejects any of those representations, state his reasons.
- (7) If in any case there are special circumstances which render it not reasonably practicable for the employer to comply with a requirement of subsection (2), (4) or (6), the employer shall take all such steps towards compliance with that requirement as are reasonably practicable in those circumstances.
- (8) This section does not confer any rights on a trade union or an employee except as provided by sections 189 to 192 below.

189 Complaint by trade union and protective award

- (1) Where an employer has dismissed as redundant, or is proposing to dismiss as redundant, one or more employees of a description in respect of which an independent trade union is recognised by him, and has not complied with the requirements of section 188, the union may present a complaint to an industrial tribunal on that ground.
- (2) If the tribunal finds the complaint well-founded it shall make a declaration to that effect and may also make a protective award.
- (3) A protective award is an award in respect of one or more descriptions of employees—
- (a) who have been dismissed as redundant, or whom it is proposed to dismiss as redundant, and
 - (b) in respect of whose dismissal or proposed dismissal the employer has failed to comply with a requirement of section 188,
- ordering the employer to pay remuneration for the protected period.
- (4) The protected period—
- (a) begins with the date on which the first of the dismissals to which the complaint relates takes effect, or the date of the award, whichever is the earlier, and
 - (b) is of such length as the tribunal determines to be just and equitable in all the circumstances having regard to the seriousness of the employer's default in complying with any requirement of section 188;
- but shall not exceed 90 days in a case falling within section 188(2)(a), 30 days in a case falling within section 188(2)(b), or 28 days in any other case.

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- (5) An industrial tribunal shall not consider a complaint under this section unless it is presented to the tribunal—
- (a) before the proposed dismissal takes effect, or
 - (b) before the end of the period of three months beginning with the date on which the dismissal takes effect, or
 - (c) where the tribunal is satisfied that it was not reasonably practicable for the complaint to be presented within the period of three months, within such further period as it considers reasonable.
- (6) If on a complaint under this section a question arises—
- (a) whether there were special circumstances which rendered it not reasonably practicable for the employer to comply with any requirement of section 188, or
 - (b) whether he took all such steps towards compliance with that requirement as were reasonably practicable in those circumstances,
- it is for the employer to show that there were and that he did.

190 Entitlement under protective award

- (1) Where an industrial tribunal has made a protective award, every employee of a description to which the award relates is entitled, subject to the following provisions and to section 191, to be paid remuneration by his employer for the protected period.
- (2) The rate of remuneration payable is a week's pay for each week of the period; and remuneration in respect of a period less than one week shall be calculated by reducing proportionately the amount of a week's pay.
- (3) Any payment made to an employee by an employer in respect of a period falling within a protected period—
- (a) under the employee's contract of employment, or
 - (b) by way of damages for breach of that contract,
- shall go towards discharging the employer's liability to pay remuneration under the protective award in respect of that first mentioned period.
- Conversely, any payment of remuneration under a protective award in respect of any period shall go towards discharging any liability of the employer under, or in respect of any breach of, the contract of employment in respect of that period.
- (4) An employee is not entitled to remuneration under a protective award in respect of a period during which he is employed by the employer unless he would be entitled to be paid by the employer in respect of that period—
- (a) by virtue of his contract of employment, or
 - (b) by virtue of Schedule 3 to the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 (rights of employee in period of notice),
- if that period fell within the period of notice required to be given by section 49(1) of that Act.
- (5) Schedule 14 to the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 applies with respect to the calculation of a week's pay for the purposes of this section.
- The calculation date for the purposes of Part II of that Schedule is the date on which the protective award was made or, in the case of an employee who was dismissed before the date on which the protective award was made, the date which by virtue

of paragraph 7(1)(k) or (l) of that Schedule is the calculation date for the purpose of computing the amount of a redundancy payment in relation to that dismissal (whether or not the employee concerned is entitled to any such payment).

- (6) If an employee of a description to which a protective award relates dies during the protected period, the award has effect in his case as if the protected period ended on his death.

191 Termination of employment during protected period

- (1) Where the employee is employed by the employer during the protected period and—
(a) he is fairly dismissed by his employer for a reason other than redundancy, or
(b) he unreasonably terminates the contract of employment,

then, subject to the following provisions, he is not entitled to remuneration under the protective award in respect of any period during which but for that dismissal or termination he would have been employed.

- (2) If an employer makes an employee an offer (whether in writing or not and whether before or after the ending of his employment under the previous contract) to renew his contract of employment, or to re-engage him under a new contract, so that the renewal or re-engagement would take effect before or during the protected period, and either—
(a) the provisions of the contract as renewed, or of the new contract, as to the capacity and place in which he would be employed, and as to the other terms and conditions of his employment, would not differ from the corresponding provisions of the previous contract, or
(b) the offer constitutes an offer of suitable employment in relation to the employee,

the following subsections have effect.

- (3) If the employee unreasonably refuses the offer, he is not entitled to remuneration under the protective award in respect of a period during which but for that refusal he would have been employed.
- (4) If the employee's contract of employment is renewed, or he is re-engaged under a new contract of employment, in pursuance of such an offer as is referred to in subsection (2) (b), there shall be a trial period in relation to the contract as renewed, or the new contract (whether or not there has been a previous trial period under this section).
- (5) The trial period begins with the ending of his employment under the previous contract and ends with the expiration of the period of four weeks beginning with the date on which he starts work under the contract as renewed, or the new contract, or such longer period as may be agreed in accordance with subsection (6) for the purpose of retraining the employee for employment under that contract.
- (6) Any such agreement—
(a) shall be made between the employer and the employee or his representative before the employee starts work under the contract as renewed or, as the case may be, the new contract,
(b) shall be in writing,
(c) shall specify the date of the end of the trial period, and
(d) shall specify the terms and conditions of employment which will apply in the employee's case after the end of that period.

- (7) If during the trial period—
- (a) the employee, for whatever reason, terminates the contract, or gives notice to terminate it and the contract is thereafter, in consequence, terminated, or
 - (b) the employer, for a reason connected with or arising out of the change to the renewed, or new, employment, terminates the contract, or gives notice to terminate it and the contract is thereafter, in consequence, terminated,
- the employee remains entitled under the protective award unless, in a case falling within paragraph (a), he acted unreasonably in terminating or giving notice to terminate the contract.

192 Complaint by employee to industrial tribunal

- (1) An employee may present a complaint to an industrial tribunal on the ground that he is an employee of a description to which a protective award relates and that his employer has failed, wholly or in part, to pay him remuneration under the award.
- (2) An industrial tribunal shall not entertain a complaint under this section unless it is presented to the tribunal—
 - (a) before the end of the period of three months beginning with the day (or, if the complaint relates to more than one day, the last of the days) in respect of which the complaint is made of failure to pay remuneration, or
 - (b) where the tribunal is satisfied that it was not reasonably practicable for the complaint to be presented within the period of three months, within such further period as it may consider reasonable.
- (3) Where the tribunal finds a complaint under this section well-founded it shall order the employer to pay the complainant the amount of remuneration which it finds is due to him.
- (4) The remedy of an employee for infringement of his right to remuneration under a protective award is by way of complaint under this section, and not otherwise.

Duty of employer to notify Secretary of State

193 Duty of employer to notify Secretary of State of certain redundancies

- (1) An employer proposing to dismiss as redundant 100 or more employees at one establishment within a period of 90 days or less shall notify the Secretary of State, in writing, of his proposal at least 90 days before the first of those dismissals takes effect.
- (2) An employer proposing to dismiss as redundant 10 or more employees at one establishment within a period of 30 days or less shall notify the Secretary of State, in writing, of his proposal at least 30 days before the first of those dismissals takes effect.
- (3) In determining how many employees an employer is proposing to dismiss as redundant within the period mentioned in subsection (1) or (2), no account shall be taken of employees in respect of whose proposed dismissal notice has already been given to the Secretary of State.
- (4) A notice under this section shall—

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- (a) be given to the Secretary of State by delivery to him or by sending it by post to him, at such address as the Secretary of State may direct in relation to the establishment where the employees proposed to be dismissed are employed,
 - (b) in a case where consultation with trade union representatives is required by section 188, identify the trade union concerned and state the date when consultation began, and
 - (c) be in such form and contain such particulars, in addition to those required by paragraph (b), as the Secretary of State may direct.
- (5) After receiving a notice under this section from an employer the Secretary of State may by written notice require the employer to give him such further information as may be specified in the notice.
- (6) Where a notice given under subsection (1) or subsection (2) relates to employees of a description in respect of which an independent trade union is recognised by the employer, the employer shall give a copy of the notice to representatives of that union.
- The copy shall be delivered to them or sent by post to an address notified by them to the employer, or sent by post to the union at the address of its head or main office.
- (7) If in any case there are special circumstances rendering it not reasonably practicable for the employer to comply with any of the requirements of subsections (1) to (6), he shall take all such steps towards compliance with that requirement as are reasonably practicable in the circumstances.

194 Offence of failure to notify

- (1) An employer who fails to give notice to the Secretary of State in accordance with section 193 commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.
- (2) Proceedings in England or Wales for such an offence shall be instituted only by or with the consent of the Secretary of State or by an officer authorised for that purpose by special or general directions of the Secretary of State.
- An officer so authorised may, although not of counsel or a solicitor, prosecute or conduct proceedings for such an offence before a magistrates' court.
- (3) Where an offence under this section committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate, or any person purporting to act in any such capacity, he as well as the body corporate is guilty of the offence and liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.
- (4) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, subsection (3) applies in relation to the acts and defaults of a member in connection with his functions of management as if he were a director of the body corporate.

Supplementary provisions

195 Meaning of “redundancy”

- (1) In this Chapter, references to redundancy or to being redundant, in relation to an employee, are references to—
 - (a) the fact that the employer has ceased, or intends to cease, to carry on the business for the purposes of which the employee is or was employed by him, or has ceased, or intends to cease, to carry on that business in the place where the employee is or was so employed, or
 - (b) the fact that the requirements of that business for employees to carry out work of a particular kind, or for employees to carry out work of a particular kind in the place where he is or was so employed, have ceased or diminished or are expected to cease or diminish.
- (2) In subsection (1)—

“business” includes a trade or profession and includes any activity carried on by a body of persons, whether corporate or unincorporate; and

“cease” means cease either permanently or temporarily and from whatever cause, and “diminish” has a corresponding meaning.
- (3) For the purposes of any proceedings under this Chapter, the dismissal or proposed dismissal of an employee shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, to be by reason of redundancy.

196 Meaning of “trade union representative”

References in this Chapter to a trade union representative, in relation to an employer, are to an official or other person authorised by the trade union to carry on collective bargaining with that employer.

197 Power to vary provisions

- (1) The Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument vary—
 - (a) the provisions of sections 188(2) and 193(1) (requirements as to consultation and notification), and
 - (b) the periods referred to at the end of section 189(4) (maximum protected period);but no such order shall be made which has the effect of reducing to less than 30 days the periods referred to in sections 188(2) and 193(1) as the periods which must elapse before the first of the dismissals takes effect.
- (2) No such order shall be made unless a draft of the order has been laid before Parliament and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

198 Power to adapt provisions in case of collective agreement

- (1) This section applies where there is in force a collective agreement which establishes—
 - (a) arrangements for providing alternative employment for employees to whom the agreement relates if they are dismissed as redundant by an employer to whom it relates, or
 - (b) arrangements for the handling of redundancies.

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- (2) On the application of all the parties to the agreement the Secretary of State may, if he is satisfied having regard to the provisions of the agreement that the arrangements are on the whole at least as favourable to those employees as the foregoing provisions of this Chapter, by order made by statutory instrument adapt, modify or exclude any of those provisions both in their application to all or any of those employees and in their application to any other employees of any such employer.
- (3) The Secretary of State shall not make such an order unless the agreement—
 - (a) provides for procedures to be followed (whether by arbitration or otherwise) in cases where an employee to whom the agreement relates claims that any employer or other person to whom it relates has not complied with the provisions of the agreement, and
 - (b) provides that those procedures include a right to arbitration or adjudication by an independent referee or body in cases where (by reason of an equality of votes or otherwise) a decision cannot otherwise be reached,or indicates that any such employee may present a complaint to an industrial tribunal that any such employer or other person has not complied with those provisions.
- (4) An order under this section may confer on an industrial tribunal to whom a complaint is presented as mentioned in subsection (3) such powers and duties as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (5) An order under this section may be varied or revoked by a subsequent order thereunder either in pursuance of an application made by all or any of the parties to the agreement in question or without any such application.