



# Employment Rights Act 1996

## 1996 CHAPTER 18

### PART XIII

#### MISCELLANEOUS

#### CHAPTER I

##### PARTICULAR TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT

##### *Crown employment etc.*

#### **191 Crown employment.**

- (1) Subject to sections 192 and 193, the provisions of this Act to which this section applies have effect in relation to Crown employment and persons in Crown employment as they have effect in relation to other employment and other employees or workers.
- (2) This section applies to—
  - (a) Parts I to III,
  - [<sup>F1</sup>(aa) Part IVA,]
  - (b) Part V, apart from section 45,
  - (c) Parts VI to VIII,
  - (d) in Part IX, sections 92 and 93,
  - (e) Part X, apart from section 101, and
  - (f) this Part and Parts XIV and XV.
- (3) In this Act “Crown employment” means employment under or for the purposes of a government department or any officer or body exercising on behalf of the Crown functions conferred by a statutory provision.
- (4) For the purposes of the application of provisions of this Act in relation to Crown employment in accordance with subsection (1)—

**Status:** Point in time view as at 02/07/1999. This version of this part contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

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- (a) references to an employee or a worker shall be construed as references to a person in Crown employment,
  - (b) references to a contract of employment, or a worker's contract, shall be construed as references to the terms of employment of a person in Crown employment,
  - (c) references to dismissal, or to the termination of a worker's contract, shall be construed as references to the termination of Crown employment,
  - (d) references to redundancy shall be construed as references to the existence of such circumstances as are treated, in accordance with any arrangements falling within section 177(3) for the time being in force, as equivalent to redundancy in relation to Crown employment, and
  - (e) references to an undertaking shall be construed—
    - (i) in relation to a Minister of the Crown, as references to his functions or (as the context may require) to the department of which he is in charge, and
    - (ii) in relation to a government department, officer or body, as references to the functions of the department, officer or body or (as the context may require) to the department, officer or body.
- (5) Where the terms of employment of a person in Crown employment restrict his right to take part in—
- (a) certain political activities, or
  - (b) activities which may conflict with his official functions,
- nothing in section 50 requires him to be allowed time off work for public duties connected with any such activities.
- (6) Sections 159 and 160 are without prejudice to any exemption or immunity of the Crown.

#### Textual Amendments

**F1** S. 191(1)(aa) inserted (2.7.1999) by 1998 c. 23, s. 10; S.I. 1999/1547, art. 2

## 192 Armed forces.

- (1) Section 191—
- (a) applies to service as a member of the naval, military or air forces of the Crown but subject to the following provisions of this section, and
  - (b) applies to employment by an association established for the purposes of Part XI of the <sup>M1</sup>Reserve Forces Act 1996.
- (2) The provisions of this Act which have effect by virtue of section 191 in relation to service as a member of the naval, military or air forces of the Crown are—
- (a) Part I,
  - [<sup>F2</sup>(aa) in Part V, section 45A, and sections 48 and 49 so far as relating to that section,]
  - (b) in Part VI, sections 55 to 57,
  - (c) Parts VII and VIII,
  - (d) in Part IX, sections 92 and 93,
  - (e) Part X, apart from sections 100 to 103 and 134, and
  - (f) this Part and Parts XIV and XV.

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- (3) Her Majesty may by Order in Council—
- (a) amend subsection (2) by making additions to, or omissions from, the provisions for the time being specified in that subsection, and
  - (b) make any provision for the time being so specified apply to service as a member of the naval, military or air forces of the Crown subject to such exceptions and modifications as may be specified in the Order in Council,
- but no provision contained in Part II may be added to the provisions for the time being specified in subsection (2).
- (4) Modifications made by an Order in Council under subsection (3) may include provision precluding the making of a complaint or reference to any [<sup>F3</sup>employment tribunal] unless [<sup>F4</sup>—
- (a) the person aggrieved has made a complaint to an officer under the service procedures for the redress of complaints applicable to him and has submitted that complaint to the Defence Council under those procedures; and
  - (b) the Defence Council have made a determination with respect to the complaint.]
- [<sup>F5</sup>(5) Where modifications made by an Order in Council under subsection (3) include provision such as is mentioned in subsection (4), the Order in Council shall also include provision—
- (a) enabling a complaint or reference to be made to an [<sup>F3</sup>employment tribunal] in such circumstances as may be specified in the Order, notwithstanding that provision such as is mentioned in subsection (4) would otherwise preclude the making of the complaint or reference; and
  - (b) where a complaint or reference is made to an [<sup>F3</sup>employment tribunal] by virtue of provision such as is mentioned in paragraph (a), enabling the service procedures for the redress of complaints to continue after the complaint or reference is made.]
- (6) In subsections (4) and (5) “the service redress procedures” means the procedures, excluding those which relate to the making of a report on a complaint to Her Majesty, referred to in—
- (a) [<sup>F6</sup>section 180] of the <sup>M2</sup>Army Act 1955,
  - (b) [<sup>F6</sup>section 180] of the <sup>M3</sup>Air Force Act 1955, and
  - (c) section 130 of the <sup>M4</sup>Naval Discipline Act 1957.
- (7) No provision shall be made by virtue of subsection (4) which has the effect of substituting a period longer than six months for any period specified as the normal period for a complaint or reference.
- (8) In subsection (7) “the normal period for a complaint or reference”, in relation to any matter within the jurisdiction of an [<sup>F3</sup>employment tribunal], means the period specified in the relevant enactment as the period within which the complaint or reference must be made (disregarding any provision permitting an extension of that period at the discretion of the tribunal).

#### Textual Amendments

**F2** S. 192(2)(aa) inserted (1.10.1998) by S.I. 1998/1833, reg. 31(4)

**F3** Words in s. 192(4)(5)(a)(b)(8) substituted (1.8.1998) by 1998 c. 8, s. 1(2)(a) (with s. 16(2)); S.I. 1998/1658, art. 2(1), Sch. 1

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- F4** Paras. (a)(b) substituted for words in s. 192(4) (1.10.1997) by 1996 c. 46, s. 26(2); S.I. 1997/2164, art. 2
- F5** S. 192(5) substituted (1.10.1997) by 1996 c. 46, s. 26(3); S.I. 1997/2164, art. 2
- F6** Words in s. 192(6)(a)(b) substituted (1.10.1997) by 1996 c. 46, s. 26(4); S.I. 1997/2164, art. 2

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** As s. 31 of the Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act 1993 has not come into force before the commencement of this Act (22.8.1996), this Act shall have effect until the relevant commencement date as if for section 192 there were substituted the words expressed in Sch. 2 Part II para. 16(1) of this Act. The relevant commencement date is defined by Sch. 2 Part II para 16(2) of this Act.
- C2** As Part XI of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 has not come into force before the commencement of this Act (22.8.1996), section 192 of this Act shall have effect until the relevant commencement date as if for "Part XI of the Reserve Forces Act 1996" there were substituted "Part VI of the Reserve Forces Act 1980". The relevant commencement date is defined by Sch. 2 Part II para 17(2).

#### Marginal Citations

- M1** 1996 c. 14.  
**M2** 1955 c. 18.  
**M3** 1955 c. 19.  
**M4** 1957 c. 53.

### 193 National security.

- (1) The provisions of this Act to which this section applies do not have effect in relation to any Crown employment in respect of which there is in force a certificate issued by or on behalf of a Minister of the Crown certifying that employment of a description specified in the certificate, or the employment of a particular person so specified, is (or, at a time specified in the certificate, was) required to be excepted from those provisions for the purpose of safeguarding national security.
- (2) This section applies to—
- (a) Part I, so far as it relates to itemised pay statements,
  - (b) Part III,
  - [<sup>F7F7</sup>(bb) Part IVA,
  - <sup>F7</sup>(bc) in Part V, section 47B,]
  - (c) in Part VI, sections 50 to 54,
  - (d) in Part VII, sections 64 and 65, and sections 69 and 70 so far as relating to those sections,
  - (e) in Part IX, sections 92 and 93, except where they apply by virtue of section 92(4),
  - (f) Part X, except so far as relating to a dismissal which is treated as unfair—
    - (i) by section 99(1) to (3), 100 or 103, or
    - (ii) by subsection (1) of section 105 by reason of the application of subsection (2), (3) or (6) of that section, and
  - (g) this Part and Parts XIV and XV (so far as relating to any of the provisions specified in paragraphs (a) to (f)).
- (3) Any document purporting to be a certificate issued as mentioned in subsection (1)—
- (a) shall be received in evidence, and
  - (b) unless the contrary is proved, shall be deemed to be such a certificate.

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[<sup>F8</sup>(4) Part IVA and sections 47B and 103A do not have effect in relation to employment for the purposes of the Security Service, the Secret Intelligence Service or the Government Communications Headquarters.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F7** S. 193(2)(bb)(bc) inserted (2.7.1999) by 1998 c. 23, s. 11(2); S.I. 1999/1547, art. 2 (which insertion falls (*prosp.*) by reason of the repeal of 1998 c. 23, s. 11 by 1999 c. 26, ss. 44, 45(1), Sch. 9(12))
- F8** S. 193(4) inserted (2.7.1999) by 1998 c. 23, s. 11(3); S.I. 1999/1547, art. 2 (which insertion falls (*prosp.*) by reason of the repeal of 1998 c. 23, s. 11 by 1999 c. 26, ss. 44, 45(1), Sch. 9(12))

### Parliamentary staff

#### 194 House of Lords staff.

- (1) The provisions of this Act to which this section applies have effect in relation to employment as a relevant member of the House of Lords staff as they have effect in relation to other employment.
- (2) This section applies to—
  - (a) Part I,
  - (b) Part III,
  - (c) in Part V, [<sup>F9</sup>sections 44, 45A and 47], and sections 48 and 49 so far as relating to those sections,
  - (d) Part VI, apart from sections 58 to 60,
  - (e) Parts VII and VIII,
  - (f) in Part IX, sections 92 and 93,
  - (g) Part X, apart from sections 101 and 102, and
  - (h) this Part and Parts XIV and XV.
- (3) For the purposes of the application of the provisions of this Act to which this section applies in relation to a relevant member of the House of Lords staff references to an undertaking shall be construed as references to the House of Lords.
- (4) Nothing in any rule of law or the law or practice of Parliament prevents a relevant member of the House of Lords staff from bringing before the High Court or a county court—
  - (a) a claim arising out of or relating to a contract of employment or any other contract connected with employment, or
  - (b) a claim in tort arising in connection with employment.
- (5) Where the terms of the contract of employment of a relevant member of the House of Lords staff restrict his right to take part in—
  - (a) certain political activities, or
  - (b) activities which may conflict with his official functions,nothing in section 50 requires him to be allowed time off work for public duties connected with any such activities.

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- (6) In this section “relevant member of the House of Lords staff” means any person who is employed under a contract of employment with the Corporate Officer of the House of Lords.
- (7) For the purposes of the application of—
- (a) the provisions of this Act to which this section applies, or
  - (b) a claim within subsection (4),
- in relation to a person continuously employed in or for the purposes of the House of Lords up to the time when he became so employed under a contract of employment with the Corporate Officer of the House of Lords, his employment shall not be treated as having been terminated by reason only of a change in his employer before or at that time.

#### Textual Amendments

**F9** Words in s. 194(2)(c) substituted (1.10.1998) by S.I. 1998/1833, reg. 31(5)

### 195 House of Commons staff.

- (1) The provisions of this Act to which this section applies have effect in relation to employment as a relevant member of the House of Commons staff as they have effect in relation to other employment.
- (2) This section applies to—
- (a) Part I,
  - (b) Part III,
  - (c) in Part V, [<sup>F10</sup>sections 44, 45A and 47], and sections 48 and 49 so far as relating to those sections,
  - (d) Part VI, apart from sections 58 to 60,
  - (e) Parts VII and VIII,
  - (f) in Part IX, sections 92 and 93,
  - (g) Part X, apart from sections 101 and 102, and
  - (h) this Part and Parts XIV and XV.
- (3) For the purposes of the application of the provisions of this Act to which this section applies in relation to a relevant member of the House of Commons staff—
- (a) references to an employee shall be construed as references to a relevant member of the House of Commons staff,
  - (b) references to a contract of employment shall be construed as including references to the terms of employment of a relevant member of the House of Commons staff,
  - (c) references to dismissal shall be construed as including references to the termination of the employment of a relevant member of the House of Commons staff, and
  - (d) references to an undertaking shall be construed as references to the House of Commons.
- (4) Nothing in any rule of law or the law or practice of Parliament prevents a relevant member of the House of Commons staff from bringing before the High Court or a county court—

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- (a) a claim arising out of or relating to a contract of employment or any other contract connected with employment, or
  - (b) a claim in tort arising in connection with employment.
- (5) In this section “relevant member of the House of Commons staff” means any person—
- (a) who was appointed by the House of Commons Commission or is employed in the refreshment department, or
  - (b) who is a member of the Speaker’s personal staff.
- (6) Subject to subsection (7), for the purposes of—
- (a) the provisions of this Act to which this section applies,
  - (b) Part XI (where applicable to relevant members of the House of Commons staff), and
  - (c) a claim within subsection (4),
- the House of Commons Commission is the employer of staff appointed by the Commission and the Speaker is the employer of his personal staff and of any person employed in the refreshment department and not appointed by the Commission.
- (7) Where the House of Commons Commission or the Speaker designates a person to be treated for all or any of the purposes mentioned in subsection (6) as the employer of any description of staff (other than the Speaker’s personal staff), the person so designated shall be treated for those purposes as their employer.
- (8) Where any proceedings are brought by virtue of this section against—
- (a) the House of Commons Commission,
  - (b) the Speaker, or
  - (c) any person designated under subsection (7),
- the person against whom the proceedings are brought may apply to the court or [F11]employment tribunal] concerned to have some other person against whom the proceedings could at the time of the application be properly brought substituted for him as a party to the proceedings.
- (9) For the purposes mentioned in subsection (6)—
- (a) a person’s employment in or for the purposes of the House of Commons shall not (provided he continues to be employed in such employment) be treated as terminated by reason only of a change in his employer, and
  - (b) (provided he so continues) his first appointment to such employment shall be deemed after the change to have been made by his employer for the time being.
- (10) In accordance with subsection (9)—
- (a) an employee shall be treated for the purposes mentioned in subsection (6) as being continuously employed by his employer for the time being from the commencement of his employment until its termination, and
  - (b) anything done by or in relation to his employer for the time being in respect of his employment before the change shall be so treated as having been done by or in relation to the person who is his employer for the time being after the change.
- (11) In subsections (9) and (10) “employer for the time being”, in relation to a person who has ceased to be employed in or for the purposes of the House of Commons, means the person who was his employer immediately before he ceased to be so employed,

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except that where some other person would have been his employer for the time being if he had not ceased to be so employed it means that other person.

- (12) If the House of Commons resolves at any time that any provision of subsections (5) to (8) should be amended in its application to any member of the staff of that House, Her Majesty may by Order in Council amend that provision accordingly.

#### **Textual Amendments**

**F10** Words in s. 195(2)(c) substituted (1.10.1998) by S.I. 1998/1833, reg. 31(5)

**F11** Words in s. 195(8) substituted (1.8.1998) by 1998 c. 8, s. 1(2)(a) (with s. 16(2)); S.I. 1998/1658, art. 2(1), Sch. 1

#### **Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C3** S. 195(6)-(8) applied (22.8.1996) by 1996 c. 17, ss. 39(5), 46 (with s. 38)

### *Excluded classes of employment*

#### **196 Employment outside Great Britain.**

- (1) Sections 1 to 7 and sections 86 to 91 do not apply in relation to employment during any period when the employee is engaged in work wholly or mainly outside Great Britain unless—
- (a) the employee ordinarily works in Great Britain and the work outside Great Britain is for the same employer, or
  - (b) the law which governs his contract of employment is the law of England and Wales or the law of Scotland.
- (2) The provisions to which this subsection applies do not apply to employment where under the employee's contract of employment he ordinarily works outside Great Britain.
- (3) Subsection (2) applies to—
- (a) in Part I, sections 8 to 10,
  - (b) Parts II, III and V,
  - (c) Part VI, apart from sections 58 to 60,
  - (d) Parts VII and VIII,
  - (e) in Part IX, sections 92 and 93, and
  - (f) (subject to subsection (4)) Part X.

[<sup>F12</sup>(3A) Part IVA and section 47B do not apply to employment where under the worker's contract he ordinarily works outside Great Britain.]

- (4) Part X applies to employment where under her contract of employment the employee ordinarily works outside Great Britain if—
- (a) section 84 applies to her dismissal, or
  - (b) she is treated as dismissed by section 96.
- (5) For the purposes of subsections (2) [<sup>F13</sup>, (3A)] and (4), a person employed to work on board a ship registered in the United Kingdom shall be regarded as a person who under his contract ordinarily works in Great Britain unless—



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- (a) the ship is registered at a port outside Great Britain,
  - (b) the employment is wholly outside Great Britain, or
  - (c) the person is not ordinarily resident in Great Britain.
- (6) An employee—
- (a) is not entitled to a redundancy payment if he is outside Great Britain on the relevant date unless under his contract of employment he ordinarily worked in Great Britain, and
  - (b) is not entitled to a redundancy payment if under his contract of employment he ordinarily works outside Great Britain unless on the relevant date he is in Great Britain in accordance with instructions given to him by his employer.
- (7) Part XII does not apply to employment where, under the employee's contract of employment, he ordinarily works outside the territory of the member States of the European Communities and of Norway and Iceland.

#### Textual Amendments

**F12** S. 196(3A) inserted (2.7.1999) by 1998 c. 23, s. 12(2); S.I. 1999/1547, art. 2

**F13** Words in s. 196(5) inserted (2.7.1999) by 1998 c. 23, s. 12(3); S.I. 1999/1547, art. 2

### 197 Fixed-term contracts.

- (1) Part X does not apply to dismissal from employment under a contract for a fixed term of one year or more if—
- (a) the dismissal consists only of the expiry of that term without its being renewed, and
  - (b) before the term expires the employee has agreed in writing to exclude any claim in respect of rights under that Part in relation to the contract.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not prevent Part X from applying if the dismissal is regarded as unfair by virtue of section 101.
- (3) An employee employed under a contract of employment for a fixed term of two years or more is not entitled to a redundancy payment in respect of the expiry of that term without its being renewed (whether by the employer or by an associated employer of his) if, before the term expires, the employee has agreed in writing to exclude any right to a redundancy payment in that event.
- (4) An agreement such as is mentioned in subsection (1) or (3) may be contained—
- (a) in the contract itself, or
  - (b) in a separate agreement.
- (5) Where—
- (a) an agreement such as is mentioned in subsection (3) is made during the currency of a fixed term, and
  - (b) the term is renewed,
- the agreement shall not be construed as applying to the term as renewed; but this subsection is without prejudice to the making of a further agreement in relation to the renewed term.

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## **198 Short-term employment.**

Sections 1 to 7 do not apply to an employee if his employment continues for less than one month.

## **199 Mariners.**

- (1) Sections 1 to 7, Part II and sections 86 to 91 do not apply to a person employed as a seaman in a ship registered in the United Kingdom under a crew agreement the provisions and form of which are of a kind approved by the Secretary of State.
- (2) Sections 8 to 10, Part III, sections 44, 45, 47, 50 to 57 and 61 to 63, Parts VII and VIII, sections 92 and 93 and (subject to subsection (3)) Parts X to XII do not apply to employment as master, or as a member of the crew, of a fishing vessel where the employee is remunerated only by a share in the profits or gross earnings of the vessel.
- (3) Part X applies to employment such as is mentioned in subsection (2) if—
  - (a) section 84 applies to the employee’s dismissal, or
  - (b) she is treated as dismissed by section 96,
 and Part XI applies to employment such as is so mentioned if the employee is treated as dismissed by section 137.
- (4) Sections 8 to 10 and 50 to 54 and Part XII do not apply to employment as a merchant seaman.
- (5) In subsection (4) “employment as a merchant seaman”—
  - (a) does not include employment in the fishing industry or employment on board a ship otherwise than by the owner, manager or charterer of that ship except employment as a radio officer, but
  - (b) subject to that, includes—
    - (i) employment as a master or a member of the crew of any ship,
    - (ii) employment as a trainee undergoing training for the sea service, and
    - (iii) employment in or about a ship in port by the owner, manager or charterer of the ship to do work of the kind ordinarily done by a merchant seaman on a ship while it is in port.
- (6) Section 196(6) does not apply to an employee, and section 197(3) does not apply to a contract of employment, if the employee is—
  - (a) employed as a master or seaman in a British ship, and
  - (b) ordinarily resident in Great Britain.

## **200 Police officers.**

- (1) Sections 8 to 10, Part III [<sup>F14</sup>, Part IVA], sections <sup>F15</sup> . . . , 45, [<sup>F16</sup>45A,] 47 [<sup>F17</sup>, 47B], 50 to 57 and 61 to 63, Parts VII and VIII, sections 92 and 93, Part X [<sup>F18</sup>(except sections 100 and 134A and the other provisions of that Part so far as relating to the right not to be unfairly dismissed in a case where the dismissal is unfair by virtue of section 100)] and section 137 do not apply to employment under a contract of employment in police service or to persons engaged in such employment.
- (2) In subsection (1) “police service” means—
  - (a) service as a member of a constabulary maintained by virtue of an enactment, or

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- (b) subject to section 126 of the <sup>M5</sup>Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (prison staff not to be regarded as in police service), service in any other capacity by virtue of which a person has the powers or privileges of a constable.

#### Textual Amendments

- F14** Words in s. 200(1) inserted (2.7.1999) by 1998 c. 23, s. 13(a); S.I. 1999/1547, art. 2  
**F15** Word in s. 200(1) repealed (1.7.1998) by 1997 c. 42, s. 6(2)(a); S.I. 1998/1542, art. 2  
**F16** Word in s. 45A inserted (1.10.1998) by S.I. 1998/1833, reg. 31(6)  
**F17** Words in s. 200(1) inserted (2.7.1999) by 1998 c. 23, s. 13(b); S.I. 1999/1547, art. 2  
**F18** Words in s. 200(1) inserted (1.7.1998) by 1997 c. 42, s. 6(2)(b); S.I. 1998/1542, art. 2

#### Marginal Citations

- M5** 1994 c. 33.

### Offshore employment

#### 201 Power to extend employment legislation to offshore employment.

- (1) In this section “offshore employment” means employment for the purposes of activities—
- (a) in the territorial waters of the United Kingdom,
  - (b) connected with the exploration of the sea-bed or subsoil, or the exploration of their natural resources, in the United Kingdom sector of the continental shelf, or
  - (c) connected with the exploration or exploitation, in a foreign sector of the continental shelf, of a cross-boundary petroleum field.
- (2) Her Majesty may by Order in Council provide that—
- (a) the provisions of this Act, and
  - (b) any Northern Ireland legislation making provision for purposes corresponding to any of the purposes of this Act,
- apply, to such extent and for such purposes as may be specified in the Order (with or without modification), to or in relation to a person in offshore employment.
- (3) An Order in Council under this section—
- (a) may make different provision for different cases,
  - (b) may provide that all or any of the provisions referred to in subsection (2), as applied by such an Order in Council, apply—
    - (i) to individuals whether or not they are British subjects, and
    - (ii) to bodies corporate whether or not they are incorporated under the law of a part of the United Kingdom,and apply even where the application may affect their activities outside the United Kingdom,
  - (c) may make provision for conferring jurisdiction on any court or class of court specified in the Order in Council, or on [<sup>F19</sup>employment tribunals], in respect of offences, causes of action or other matters arising in connection with offshore employment,

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- (d) may (without prejudice to subsection (2) and paragraph (a)) provide that the provisions referred to in subsection (2), as applied by the Order in Council, apply in relation to any person in employment in a part of the areas referred to in subsection (1)(a) and (b),
  - (e) may exclude from the operation of section 3 of the <sup>M6</sup>Territorial Waters Jurisdiction Act 1878 (consents required for prosecutions) proceedings for offences under the provisions referred to in subsection (2) in connection with offshore employment,
  - (f) may provide that such proceedings shall not be brought without such consent as may be required by the Order in Council,
  - (g) may (without prejudice to subsection (2)) modify or exclude the operation of any or all of sections 196, 199 and 215(2) to (6) or of any corresponding Northern Ireland legislation.
- (4) Any jurisdiction conferred on a court or tribunal under this section is without prejudice to jurisdiction exercisable apart from this section by that or any other court or tribunal.
- (5) In this section—
- “cross-boundary petroleum field” means a petroleum field that extends across the boundary between the United Kingdom sector of the continental shelf and a foreign sector of the continental shelf,
  - “foreign sector of the continental shelf” means an area outside the territorial waters of any state, within which rights with respect to the sea-bed and subsoil and their natural resources are exercisable by a state other than the United Kingdom,
  - “petroleum field” means a geological structure identified as an oil or gas field by the Order in Council concerned, and
  - “United Kingdom sector of the continental shelf” means the area designated under section 1(7) of the <sup>M7</sup>Continental Shelf Act 1964.

#### Textual Amendments

**F19** Words in s. 201(3)(c) substituted (1.8.1998) by 1998 c. 8, s. 1(2)(b) (with s. 16(2)); S.I. 1998/1658, art. 2(1), Sch. 1

#### Marginal Citations

**M6** 1878 c. 73.

**M7** 1964 c. 29.

## CHAPTER II

### OTHER MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

#### *Restrictions on disclosure of information*

#### **202 National security.**

- (1) Where in the opinion of any Minister of the Crown the disclosure of any information would be contrary to the interests of national security—

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- (a) nothing in any of the provisions to which this section applies requires any person to disclose the information, and
  - (b) no person shall disclose the information in any proceedings in any court or tribunal relating to any of those provisions.
- (2) This section applies to—
- (a) Part I, so far as it relates to employment particulars,
  - (b) in Part V, [<sup>F20</sup>sections 44, 45A and 47], and sections 48 and 49 so far as relating to those sections,
  - (c) in Part VI, sections 55 to 57 and 61 to 63,
  - (d) in Part VII, sections 66 to 68, and sections 69 and 70 so far as relating to those sections,
  - (e) Part VIII,
  - (f) in Part IX, sections 92 and 93 where they apply by virtue of section 92(4),
  - (g) Part X so far as relating to a dismissal which is treated as unfair—
    - (i) by section 99(1) to (3), 100 [<sup>F21</sup>, 101A(d)] or 103, or
    - (ii) by subsection (1) of section 105 by reason of the application of subsection (2), (3) or (6) of that section, [<sup>F22</sup>or by reason of the application of subsection (4A) in so far as it applies where the reason (or, if more than one, the principal reason) for which an employee was selected for dismissal was that specified in section 101A(d)] and
  - (h) this Part and Parts XIV and XV (so far as relating to any of the provisions in paragraphs (a) to (g)).

#### Textual Amendments

**F20** Words in s. 202(2)(b) substituted (1.10.1998) by S.I. 1998/1833, reg. 31(5)

**F21** Words in s. 202(2)(g)(i) inserted (1.10.1998) by S.I. 1998/1833, reg. 32(6)(a)

**F22** Words in s. 202(2)(g)(ii) inserted (1.10.1998) by S.I. 1998/1833, reg. 32(6)(b)

#### *Contracting out etc. and remedies*

### **203 Restrictions on contracting out.**

- (1) Any provision in an agreement (whether a contract of employment or not) is void in so far as it purports—
- (a) to exclude or limit the operation of any provision of this Act, or
  - (b) to preclude a person from bringing any proceedings under this Act before an [<sup>F23</sup>employment tribunal].
- (2) Subsection (1)—
- (a) does not apply to any provision in a collective agreement excluding rights under section 28 if an order under section 35 is for the time being in force in respect of it,
  - (b) does not apply to any provision in a dismissal procedures agreement excluding the right under section 94 if that provision is not to have effect unless an order under section 110 is for the time being in force in respect of it,
  - (c) does not apply to any provision in an agreement if an order under section 157 is for the time being in force in respect of it,

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- (d) does not apply to any provision of an agreement relating to dismissal from employment such as is mentioned in section 197(1) or (3),
  - (e) does not apply to any agreement to refrain from instituting or continuing proceedings where a conciliation officer has taken action under section 18 of [F23]the M8Employment Tribunals Act 1996], and
  - (f) does not apply to any agreement to refrain from instituting or continuing F24 . . . any proceedings within section 18(1)(d) (proceedings under this Act where conciliation available) of [F23]the Employment Tribunals Act 1996] if the conditions regulating compromise agreements under this Act are satisfied in relation to the agreement.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(f) the conditions regulating compromise agreements under this Act are that—
- (a) the agreement must be in writing,
  - (b) the agreement must relate to the particular [F25]proceedings],
  - (c) the employee or worker must have received [F26]advice from a relevant independent adviser] as to the terms and effect of the proposed agreement and, in particular, its effect on his ability to pursue his rights before an [F23]employment tribunal],
  - (d) there must be in force, when the adviser gives the advice, a [F27]contract of insurance, or an indemnity provided for members of a profession or professional body,] covering the risk of a claim by the employee or worker in respect of loss arising in consequence of the advice,
  - (e) the agreement must identify the adviser, and
  - (f) the agreement must state that the conditions regulating compromise agreements under this Act are satisfied.
- [F28](3A) A person is a relevant independent adviser for the purposes of subsection (3)(c)—
- (a) if he is a qualified lawyer,
  - (b) if he is an officer, official, employee or member of an independent trade union who has been certified in writing by the trade union as competent to give advice and as authorised to do so on behalf of the trade union,
  - (c) if he works at an advice centre (whether as an employee or a volunteer) and has been certified in writing by the centre as competent to give advice and as authorised to do so on behalf of the centre, or
  - (d) if he is a person of a description specified in an order made by the Secretary of State.
- (3B) But a person is not a relevant independent adviser for the purposes of subsection (3)(c) in relation to the employee or worker—
- (a) if he is, is employed by or is acting in the matter for the employer or an associated employer,
  - (b) in the case of a person within subsection (3A)(b) or (c), if the trade union or advice centre is the employer or an associated employer,
  - (c) in the case of a person within subsection (3A)(c), if the employee or worker makes a payment for the advice received from him, or
  - (d) in the case of a person of a description specified in an order under subsection (3A)(d), if any condition specified in the order in relation to the giving of advice by persons of that description is not satisfied.
- (4) In subsection (3A)(a) “qualified lawyer” means—

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- (a) as respects England and Wales, a barrister (whether in practice as such or employed to give legal advice), a solicitor who holds a practising certificate, or a person other than a barrister or solicitor who is an authorised advocate or authorised litigator (within the meaning of the <sup>M9</sup>Courts and Legal Services Act 1990), and
- (b) as respects Scotland, an advocate (whether in practice as such or employed to give legal advice), or a solicitor who holds a practising certificate.]

[<sup>F29</sup>(5) An agreement under which the parties agree to submit a dispute to arbitration—

- (a) shall be regarded for the purposes of subsection (2)(e) and (f) as being an agreement to refrain from instituting or continuing proceedings if—
  - (i) the dispute is covered by a scheme having effect by virtue of an order under section 212A of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, and
  - (ii) the agreement is to submit it to arbitration in accordance with the scheme, but
- (b) shall be regarded as neither being nor including such an agreement in any other case.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F23** Words in s. 203(1)(b)(2)(e)(f)(3)(c) substituted (1.8.1998) by 1998 c. 8, s. 1(2)(a)(c) (with s. 16(2)); S.I. 1998/1658, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F24** Words in s. 203(2)(f) repealed (1.8.1998) by 1998 c. 8, s. 15, **Sch. 2**; S.I. 1998/1658, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F25** Word in s. 203(3)(b) substituted (1.8.1998) by 1998 c. 8, s. 15, **Sch. 1 para. 24(2)**; S.I. 1998/1658, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F26** Words in s. 203(3)(c) substituted (1.8.1998) by 1998 c. 8, s. 9(1)(2)(e); S.I. 1998/1658, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F27** Words in s. 203(3)(d) substituted (1.8.1998) by 1998 c. 8, s. 10(1)(2)(e); S.I. 1998/1658, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F28** S. 203(3A)(3B)(4) substituted for s. 203(4) (1.8.1998) by 1998 c. 8, s. 15, **Sch. 1 para. 24(3)**; S.I. 1998/1658, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F29** S. 203(5) inserted (1.8.1998) by 1998 c. 8, s. 8(5); S.I. 1998/1658, art. 2(2), **Sch. 1**

#### Marginal Citations

- M8** 1996 c. 17.
- M9** 1990 c. 41.

## 204 Law governing employment.

- (1) For the purposes of this Act it is immaterial whether the law which (apart from this Act) governs any person's employment is the law of the United Kingdom, or of a part of the United Kingdom, or not.
- (2) Subsection (1) is subject to section 196(1)(b).

## 205 Remedy for infringement of certain rights.

- (1) The remedy of an employee for infringement of any of the rights conferred by section 8, Part III, Parts V to VIII, section 92, Part X and Part XII is, where provision is made for a complaint or the reference of a question to an [<sup>F30</sup>employment tribunal], by way of such a complaint or reference and not otherwise.

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[<sup>F31</sup>(1A) In relation to the right conferred by section 47B, the reference in subsection (1) to an employee has effect as a reference to a worker.]

[<sup>F32</sup>(1ZA) In relation to the right conferred by section 45A, the reference in subsection (1) to an employee has effect as a reference to a worker.]

(2) The remedy of a worker in respect of any contravention of section 13, 15, 18(1) or 21(1) is by way of a complaint under section 23 and not otherwise.

#### Textual Amendments

**F30** Words in s. 205(1) substituted (1.8.1998) by 1998 c. 8, s. 1(2)(a) (with s. 16(2)); S.I. 1998/1658, art. 2(1), Sch. 1

**F31** S. 205(1A) inserted (2.7.1999) by 1998 c. 23, s. 14; S.I. 1999/1547, art. 2

**F32** S. 205(1ZA) inserted (1.10.1998) by S.I. 1998/1833, reg. 31(7)

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

**C4** S. 205(1) applied (6.4.2006 with application in accordance with reg. 21(1) of the amending S.I.) by [The Transfer of Undertakings \(Protection of Employment\) Regulations 2006 \(S.I. 2006/246\)](#), regs. 1(2), 16(1)

### *General provisions about death of employer or employee*

#### **206 Institution or continuance of tribunal proceedings.**

- (1) Where an employer has died, any tribunal proceedings arising under any of the provisions of this Act to which this section applies may be defended by a personal representative of the deceased employer.
- (2) This section and section 207 apply to—
  - (a) Part I, so far as it relates to itemised pay statements,
  - (b) Part III,
  - (c) Part V,
  - (d) Part VI, apart from sections 58 to 60,
  - (e) Parts VII and VIII,
  - (f) in Part IX, sections 92 and 93, and
  - (g) Parts X to XII.
- (3) Where an employee has died, any tribunal proceedings arising under any of the provisions of this Act to which this section applies may be instituted or continued by a personal representative of the deceased employee.
- (4) If there is no personal representative of a deceased employee, any tribunal proceedings arising under any of the provisions of this Act to which this section applies may be instituted or continued on behalf of the estate of the deceased employee by any appropriate person appointed by the [<sup>F33</sup>employment tribunal].
- (5) In subsection (4) “appropriate person” means a person who is—
  - (a) authorised by the employee before his death to act in connection with the proceedings, or



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- (b) the widow or widower, child, parent or brother or sister of the deceased employee;
- and in Part XI and the following provisions of this section and section 207 references to a personal representative include a person appointed under subsection (4).
- (6) In a case where proceedings are instituted or continued by virtue of subsection (4), any award made by the [<sup>F33</sup>employment tribunal] shall be—
- (a) made in such terms, and
  - (b) enforceable in such manner,
- as the Secretary of State may by regulations provide.
- (7) Any reference in the provisions of this Act to which this section applies to the doing of anything by or in relation to an employer or employee includes a reference to the doing of the thing by or in relation to a personal representative of the deceased employer or employee.
- (8) Any reference in the provisions of this Act to which this section applies to a thing required or authorised to be done by or in relation to an employer or employee includes a reference to a thing required or authorised to be done by or in relation to a personal representative of the deceased employer or employee.
- (9) Subsections (7) and (8) do not prevent a reference to a successor of an employer including a personal representative of a deceased employer.

#### Textual Amendments

**F33** Words in s. 206(4)(6) substituted (1.8.1998) by 1998 c. 8, s. 1(2)(a) (with s. 16(2)); S.I. 1998/1658, art. 2(1), Sch. 1

### 207 Rights and liabilities accruing after death.

- (1) Any right arising under any of the provisions of this Act to which this section applies which accrues after the death of an employee devolves as if it had accrued before his death.
- (2) Where an [<sup>F34</sup>employment tribunal] determines under any provision of Part XI that an employer is liable to pay to a personal representative of a deceased employee—
- (a) the whole of a redundancy payment to which he would have been entitled but for some provision of Part XI or section 206, or
  - (b) such part of such a redundancy payment as the tribunal thinks fit,
- the reference in subsection (1) to a right includes any right to receive it.
- (3) Where—
- (a) by virtue of any of the provisions to which this section applies a personal representative is liable to pay any amount, and
  - (b) the liability has not accrued before the death of the employer,
- it shall be treated as a liability of the deceased employer which had accrued immediately before his death.

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### Textual Amendments

- F34** Words in s. 207(2) substituted (1.8.1998) by 1998 c. 8, s. 1(2)(a) (with s. 16(2)); S.I. 1998/1658, art. 2(1), Sch. 1

VALID FROM 20/05/2011

### *[<sup>F35</sup>Mediation in certain cross-border dispute*

### Textual Amendments

- F35** S. 207A and cross-heading inserted (20.5.2011 with application as mentioned in regs. 3 and 4 of the amending S.I.) by The Cross-Border Mediation (EU Directive) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/1133), regs. 2, 48

## **207A Extension of time limits because of mediation in certain cross-border disputes**

- (1) In this section—
- (a) “Mediation Directive” means Directive 2008/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters,
  - (b) “mediation” has the meaning given by article 3(a) of the Mediation Directive,
  - (c) “mediator” has the meaning given by article 3(b) of the Mediation Directive, and
  - (d) “relevant dispute” means a dispute to which article 8(1) of the Mediation Directive applies (certain cross-border disputes).
- (2) Subsection (3) applies where—
- (a) this Act provides for that subsection to apply for the purposes of a provision of this Act,
  - (b) a time limit is set by that provision in relation to the whole or part of a relevant dispute,
  - (c) a mediation in relation to the relevant dispute starts before the time limit expires, and
  - (d) if not extended by this section, the time limit would expire before the mediation ends or less than four weeks after it ends.
- (3) The time limit expires instead at the end of four weeks after the mediation ends (subject to subsection (4)).
- (4) If a time limit mentioned in subsection (2)(b) has been extended by this section, subsections (2) and (3) apply to the extended time limit as they apply to a time limit mentioned in subsection (2)(b).
- (5) Subsection (6) applies where—
- (a) a time limit is set by section 164(1)(c) or (2) in relation to the whole or part of a relevant dispute,

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- (b) a mediation in relation to the relevant dispute starts before the time limit expires, and
  - (c) if not extended by this section, the time limit would expire before the mediation ends or less than eight weeks after it ends.
- (6) The time limit expires instead at the end of eight weeks after the mediation ends (subject to subsection (7)).
- (7) If a time limit mentioned in subsection (5)(a) has been extended by this section, subsections (5) and (6) apply to the extended time limit as they apply to a time limit mentioned in subsection (5)(a).
- (8) Where more than one time limit applies in relation to a relevant dispute, the extension by subsection (3) or (6) of one of those time limits does not affect the others.
- (9) For the purposes of this section, a mediation starts on the date of the agreement to mediate that is entered into by the parties and the mediator.
- (10) For the purposes of this section, a mediation ends on the date of the first of these to occur—
- (a) the parties reach an agreement in resolution of the relevant dispute,
  - (b) a party completes the notification of the other parties that it has withdrawn from the mediation,
  - (c) a party to whom a qualifying request is made fails to give a response reaching the other parties within 14 days of the request,
  - (d) the parties, after being notified that the mediator's appointment has ended (by death, resignation or otherwise), fail to agree within 14 days to seek to appoint a replacement mediator,
  - (e) the mediation otherwise comes to an end pursuant to the terms of the agreement to mediate.
- (11) For the purpose of subsection (10), a qualifying request is a request by a party that another (A) confirm to all parties that A is continuing with the mediation.
- (12) In the case of any relevant dispute, references in this section to a mediation are references to the mediation so far as it relates to that dispute, and references to a party are to be read accordingly.
- (13) Where an employment tribunal has power under this Act to extend a time limit to which subsection (3) applies, the power is exercisable in relation to the time limit as extended by this section.]

#### *Modifications of Act*

### **208 Review of limits.**

- (1) The Secretary of State shall in each calendar year review—
- (a) the limits specified in section 31,
  - (b) the limit specified in section 186(1), and
  - (c) the limits imposed by subsection (1) of section 227 for the purposes specified in paragraphs (a) to (c) of that subsection,
- and shall determine whether any of those limits should be varied.

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- (2) In making a review under subsection (1) the Secretary of State shall consider—
  - (a) the general level of earnings obtaining in Great Britain at the time of the review,
  - (b) the national economic situation as a whole, and
  - (c) such other matters as he thinks relevant.
- (3) If on a review under subsection (1) the Secretary of State determines that, having regard to the considerations mentioned in subsection (2), any of the limits specified in subsection (1) should be varied, he shall prepare and lay before each House of Parliament the draft of an order giving effect to his decision.
- (4) Where a draft of an order under this section is approved by resolution of each House of Parliament the Secretary of State shall make an order in the form of the draft.
- (5) If, following the completion of a review under subsection (1), the Secretary of State determines that any of the limits referred to in that subsection should not be varied, he shall lay before each House of Parliament a report containing a statement of his reasons for that determination.
- (6) The Secretary of State may at any time, in addition to the annual review provided by in subsection (1), conduct a further review of the limits specified in subsection (1) so as to determine whether any of them should be varied.
- (7) Subsections (2) to (4) shall apply to a review under subsection (6) as if it were a review under subsection (1).

## **209 Powers to amend Act.**

- (1) The Secretary of State may by order—
  - (a) provide that any provision of this Act, other than any to which this paragraph does not apply, which is specified in the order shall not apply to persons, or to employments, of such classes as may be prescribed in the order,
  - (b) provide that any provision of this Act, other than any to which this paragraph does not apply, shall apply to persons or employments of such classes as may be prescribed in the order subject to such exceptions and modifications as may be so prescribed, or
  - (c) vary, or exclude the operation of, any of the provisions to which this paragraph applies.
- (2) Subsection (1)(a) does not apply to—
  - (a) Parts II and IV,
  - (b) in Part V, sections 45 and 46, and sections 48 and 49 so far as relating to those sections,
  - (c) in Part VI, sections 58 to 60,
  - (d) in Part IX, sections 87(3), 88 to 90, 91(1) to (4) and (6) and 92(6) to (8),
  - (e) in Part X, sections 95, 97(1) to (5), 98(1) to (4) and (6), 100, 101, [F<sup>36</sup>101A,] 102, 103, 105, 107, 110, 111, 120(2), 124(1), (2) and (5), 125(7) and 134,
  - (f) in Part XI, sections 143, 144, 160(2) and (3), 166 to 173 and 177 to 180,
  - (g) in Part XIII, sections 196(1) and 197(1),
  - (h) Chapter I of Part XIV, or

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- (j) in Part XV, section 236(3) so far as relating to sections 120(2), 124(2) and 125(7).
- (3) Subsection (1)(b) does not apply to—
  - (a) any of the provisions to which subsection (1)(a) does not apply,
  - (b) sections 1 to 7, or
  - (c) the provisions of sections 86 to 91 not specified in subsection (2).
- (4) The provision which may be made by virtue of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) in relation to section 94 does not include provision for application subject to exceptions or modifications; but this subsection does not prejudice paragraph (a) of that subsection.
- (5) Subsection (1)(c) applies to sections 29(2), 65(2), 86(5), 92(3), 108(1), 109(1), 159, 160(1), 196(2), (3) and (5) and 199(1), (2), (4) and (5).
- (6) The Secretary of State may by order amend any of—
  - (a) sections 84, 85, 97(6), 98(5) and 99(4),
  - (b) sections 108(3), 109(2) and 110(2) so far as relating to section 84, and
  - (c) sections 114(5), 115(4), 119(6), 127, 137(2), 145(7), 146(3), 156(2), 157(6), 162(7), 196(4), 199(3), 226(3)(a) and (5)(a) and 227(4)(a),or modify the application of any of those provisions to any description of case.
- (7) The Secretary of State may by order provide that, subject to any such modifications and exceptions as may be prescribed in the order, section 44, and any other provisions of this Act so far as relating to that section, shall apply to such descriptions of persons other than employees as may be so prescribed as to employees (but as if references to their employer were to such person as may be so prescribed).
- (8) The provisions of this section are without prejudice to any other power of the Secretary of State to amend, vary or repeal any provision of this Act or to extend or restrict its operation in relation to any person or employment.

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**Textual Amendments**

**F36** Words in s. 209(2)(e) inserted (1.10.1998) by S.I. 1998/1833, reg. 32(7)

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 02/07/1999. This version of this part contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:**

Employment Rights Act 1996, Part XIII is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.