# **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

# **EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS ACT 2004**

**INTRODUCTION** 

**BACKGROUND** 

**OVERVIEW OF THE ACT** 

**COMMENTARY** 

PART ONE: UNION RECOGNITION

The procedure for recognition: Part I of Schedule A1

**Determination of appropriate bargaining unit** 

Union communications with workers after acceptance of application

Circumstances in which the CAC must arrange a ballot

Power of the CAC to extend notification period

Postal votes for workers absent from ballot at workplace

Additional duties on employers informed of ballots

Unfair practices in relation to recognition ballots

Application where agreement does not cover pay, hours and holidays

Employer's notice to end bargaining arrangements

Unfair practice in relation to derecognition ballots

Appeals against demands for costs

Power to amend Schedule A1 of the 1992 Act

Means of communicating with workers

Unfair practices: power to make provision about periods before notice of ballot

Power to make provision about effect of amalgamations etc.

Information about union membership and employment in bargaining unit

"Pay" and other matters subject to collective bargaining

Information required by Acas for ballots and ascertaining union membership

PART TWO: INDUSTRIAL ACTION LAW

**Ballots and Notices** 

Information about employees to be balloted on industrial action

Entitlement to vote in ballot on industrial action

Inducement of members not accorded entitlement to vote

Information about employees to be contained in notice of industrial action

**Protections for Striking Employees** 

**Previous position** 

Dismissal where employees taking protected industrial action locked out

**Date of dismissal** 

Dismissal after end of protected period

**New Section 238B** 

PART THREE: RIGHTS OF TRADE UNION MEMBERS, WORKERS AND EMPLOYEES

Inducements and detriments in respect of membership etc. of independent trade unions

Inducements relating to union membership or activities

**New section 145A** 

New section 145B

**New section 145C** 

**New section 145D** 

**New section 145E** 

**New section 145F** 

Extension of protection against detriment for union membership etc.

Detriment for use of union services or refusal of inducement

Dismissal for use of union services or refusal of inducement

**Exclusion and expulsion from trade unions** 

The previous position

Exclusion or expulsion from trade union attributable to conduct

Applications no longer to be made to Employment Appeal Tribunal

Other rights of workers and employees

Disapplication of qualifying period and upper age limit for unfair dismissal

**National security: powers of employment tribunals** 

Right to be accompanied

Role of companion at disciplinary or grievance hearing

**Extension of jurisdiction of Employment Appeal Tribunal** 

Ways in which provisions conferring rights on individuals may be made

Protection of employees in respect of jury service

Flexible working

**Information and Consultation: Great Britain** 

**Information & Consultation: Northern Ireland** 

PART FOUR: ENFORCEMENT OF MINIMUM WAGE LEGISLATION

**Enforcement notices** 

Withdrawal and replacement of enforcement notice

New section 22A (withdrawal of enforcement notices)

**New section 22B** (replacement of enforcement notices)

New section 22C (effect of replacing an enforcement notice on penalties)

New section 22D (effect of replacement on appeals and civil proceedings where section 22A(3) not applied).

New section 22E (withdrawal of penalty notices)

Section 22F (replacement of penalty notice)

Enforcement officers for the agricultural wages legislation

#### **PART 5: THE CERTIFICATION OFFICER**

Sections 48 and 49

Striking out by Certification Officer of applications or complaints

**Restriction of proceedings orders: proceedings before the Certification Officer** 

Amalgamations: approval; listing and certification

Restriction of grounds of appeal from Certification Officer

### **PART 6: MISCELLANEOUS**

Additional case in which election for president of union not required

Removal of rule preventing appointment of body corporate as auditor

Means of voting in ballots and elections

Provision of money for trade union modernisation

New section 116A

### SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

**Corresponding Provision for Northern Ireland** 

Schedule 1 (minor and consequential amendments)

#### COMMENCEMENT DATE