



# Equality Act 2010

## 2010 CHAPTER 15

### PART 5

#### WORK

#### CHAPTER 1

##### EMPLOYMENT, ETC.

##### *Employees*

### 39 Employees and applicants

- (1) An employer (A) must not discriminate against a person (B)—
  - (a) in the arrangements A makes for deciding to whom to offer employment;
  - (b) as to the terms on which A offers B employment;
  - (c) by not offering B employment.
- (2) An employer (A) must not discriminate against an employee of A's (B)—
  - (a) as to B's terms of employment;
  - (b) in the way A affords B access, or by not affording B access, to opportunities for promotion, transfer or training or for receiving any other benefit, facility or service;
  - (c) by dismissing B;
  - (d) by subjecting B to any other detriment.
- (3) An employer (A) must not victimise a person (B)—
  - (a) in the arrangements A makes for deciding to whom to offer employment;
  - (b) as to the terms on which A offers B employment;
  - (c) by not offering B employment.
- (4) An employer (A) must not victimise an employee of A's (B)—

**Changes to legislation:** Equality Act 2010, Cross Heading: Employees is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 10 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. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (a) as to B's terms of employment;
  - (b) in the way A affords B access, or by not affording B access, to opportunities for promotion, transfer or training or for any other benefit, facility or service;
  - (c) by dismissing B;
  - (d) by subjecting B to any other detriment.
- (5) A duty to make reasonable adjustments applies to an employer.
- (6) Subsection (1)(b), so far as relating to sex or pregnancy and maternity, does not apply to a term that relates to pay—
- (a) unless, were B to accept the offer, an equality clause or rule would have effect in relation to the term, or
  - (b) if paragraph (a) does not apply, except in so far as making an offer on terms including that term amounts to a contravention of subsection (1)(b) by virtue of section 13, 14 or 18.
- (7) In subsections (2)(c) and (4)(c), the reference to dismissing B includes a reference to the termination of B's employment—
- (a) by the expiry of a period (including a period expiring by reference to an event or circumstance);
  - (b) by an act of B's (including giving notice) in circumstances such that B is entitled, because of A's conduct, to terminate the employment without notice.
- (8) Subsection (7)(a) does not apply if, immediately after the termination, the employment is renewed on the same terms.

#### 40 Employees and applicants: harassment

- (1) An employer (A) must not, in relation to employment by A, harass a person (B)—
- (a) who is an employee of A's;
  - (b) who has applied to A for employment.

<sup>F1</sup>(2) .....

<sup>F1</sup>(3) .....

<sup>F1</sup>(4) .....

#### Textual Amendments

**F1** S. 40(2)-(4) omitted (1.10.2013) by virtue of [Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 \(c. 24\)](#), ss. [65](#), [103\(3\)](#); [S.I. 2013/2227](#), art. [2\(c\)](#) (with art. [4](#))

#### 41 Contract workers

- (1) A principal must not discriminate against a contract worker—
- (a) as to the terms on which the principal allows the worker to do the work;
  - (b) by not allowing the worker to do, or to continue to do, the work;
  - (c) in the way the principal affords the worker access, or by not affording the worker access, to opportunities for receiving a benefit, facility or service;
  - (d) by subjecting the worker to any other detriment.

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- (2) A principal must not, in relation to contract work, harass a contract worker.
- (3) A principal must not victimise a contract worker—
  - (a) as to the terms on which the principal allows the worker to do the work;
  - (b) by not allowing the worker to do, or to continue to do, the work;
  - (c) in the way the principal affords the worker access, or by not affording the worker access, to opportunities for receiving a benefit, facility or service;
  - (d) by subjecting the worker to any other detriment.
- (4) A duty to make reasonable adjustments applies to a principal (as well as to the employer of a contract worker).
- (5) A “principal” is a person who makes work available for an individual who is—
  - (a) employed by another person, and
  - (b) supplied by that other person in furtherance of a contract to which the principal is a party (whether or not that other person is a party to it).
- (6) “Contract work” is work such as is mentioned in subsection (5).
- (7) A “contract worker” is an individual supplied to a principal in furtherance of a contract such as is mentioned in subsection (5)(b).

**Changes to legislation:**

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 40A inserted by [2023 c. 51 s. 1](#)
- s. 120(9) inserted by [2023 c. 51 s. 2\(b\)](#)
- s. 124A inserted by [2023 c. 51 s. 3](#)