Employment Rights Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 18

PART VI

TIME OFF WORK

Looking for work and making arrangements for training

54 Complaints to [F1employment tribunals].

(1) An employee may present a complaint to an **[**F1employment tribunal**]** that his employer—

(a) has unreasonably refused to permit him to take time off as required by section 52, or

(b) has failed to pay the whole or any part of any amount to which the employee is entitled under section 53(1) or (4).

(2) An **[**F1employment tribunal**]** shall not consider a complaint under this section unless it is presented—

(a) before the end of the period of three months beginning with the date on which it is alleged that the time off should have been permitted, or

(b) within such further period as the tribunal considers reasonable in a case where it is satisfied that it was not reasonably practicable for the complaint to be presented before the end of that period of three months.

[F2(2A) Section 207B (extension of time limits to facilitate conciliation before institution of proceedings) applies for the purposes of subsection (2)(a).**]**

(3) Where an **[**F1employment tribunal**]** finds a complaint under this section well-founded, the tribunal shall—

(a) make a declaration to that effect, and

(b) order the employer to pay to the employee the amount which it finds due to him.

Changes to legislation: *Employment Rights Act 1996, Section 54 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 July 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*

(4) The amount which may be ordered by a tribunal to be paid by an employer under subsection (3) (or, where the employer is liable to pay remuneration under section 53, the aggregate of that amount and the amount of that liability) shall not exceed, in respect of the notice period of any employee, forty per cent. of a week's pay of that employee.

Textual Amendments

F1 Words in s. 54(1)-(3) and sidenote to s. 54 substituted (1.8.1998) by 1998 c. 8, **s. 1(2)(a)(b)** (with s. 16(2)); S.I. 1998/1658, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**

F2 S. 54(2A) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Cross-Border Mediation (EU Directive) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/469), reg. 1(1), **Sch. 1 para. 12(7)** (with reg. 5) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1493, regs. 1(1), 4(5)(6)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

Changes to legislation:
Employment Rights Act 1996, Section 54 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 July 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.
View outstanding changes

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):

- Pt. 8 Ch. 5 inserted by 2023 c. 20 Sch. para. 2
- Pt. 8A Ch. 1 heading inserted by 2023 c. 46 s. 1(3)
- Pt. 8A Ch. 2 inserted by 2023 c. 46 s. 1(4)
- Pt. 8A Ch. 3 inserted by 2023 c. 46 s. 2
- Pt. 8A Ch. 4 inserted by 2023 c. 46 s. 3(2)
- s. 43K(1)(ca) and word omitted by 2013 c. 24 s. 20(5) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The insertion of s. 43K(1)(ba) by S.I. 2006/1056, Sch. para. 7 is to come into force on the day on which 2005 asp 13, s. 20 comes into force and that provision has never been brought into force)
- s. 43K(2)(ba) omitted by 2013 c. 24 s. 20(6) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The insertion of s. 43K(1)(ba) by S.I. 2006/1056, Sch. para. 7 is to come into force on the day on which 2005 asp 13, s. 20 comes into force and that provision has never been brought into force)
- s. 47C(2)(cc) inserted by 2023 c. 20 Sch. para. 22
- s. 47H inserted by 2020 c. 7 Sch. 7 para. 9
- s. 47AA inserted by 2008 c. 25 s. 37
- s. 47EA inserted by 2023 c. 46 Sch. para. 4
- s. 47EB inserted by 2023 c. 46 Sch. para. 5
- s. 48(1C) inserted by 2020 c. 7 Sch. 7 para. 10(a)
- s. 48(1C) inserted by 2023 c. 46 Sch. para. 6(2)
- s. 48(1D) inserted by 2023 c. 46 Sch. para. 6(3)
- s. 49(8) inserted by 2020 c. 7 Sch. 7 para. 11(b)
- s. 49(8) inserted by 2023 c. 46 Sch. para. 7(4)
- s. 49C inserted by 2017 c. 16 s. 32(4)
- s. 75I(3)(g) and word inserted by 2023 c. 20 Sch. para. 23(b)
- s. 80A(6A) inserted by 2024 c. 17 s. 1(2)
- s. 80B(6C) inserted by 2024 c. 17 s. 1(3)
- s. 80C(2)(bc) inserted by 2023 c. 20 Sch. para. 24(2)
- s. 80C(4)(bc) inserted by 2023 c. 20 Sch. para. 24(3)
- s. 80D(1A) inserted by 2024 c. 17 s. 1(4)(a)
- s. 80D(3) inserted by 2024 c. 17 s. 1(4)(c)
- s. 80EB(2)(f) and word inserted by 2023 c. 20 Sch. para. 25(b)
- s. 99(3)(cc) inserted by 2023 c. 20 Sch. para. 28
- s. 101B inserted by 2008 c. 25 s. 38
- s. 104H inserted by 2020 c. 7 Sch. 7 para. 14
- s. 104CA inserted by 2023 c. 46 Sch. para. 9
- s. 105(4B) inserted by 2008 c. 25 s. 39(3)
- s. 105(7BC) inserted by 2020 c. 7 Sch. 7 para. 15
- s. 105(7BAA) inserted by 2023 c. 46 Sch. para. 10
- s. 108(3)(gia) inserted by 2023 c. 46 Sch. para. 11
- s. 108(3)(de) inserted by 2008 c. 25 s. 39(4)
- s. 108(3)(gn) inserted by 2020 c. 7 Sch. 7 para. 16
- s. 110(3A) inserted by 2002 c. 22 s. 44
- s. 205A(2)(ba) inserted by 2023 c. 46 Sch. para. 16(2)
- s. 205A(8A) inserted by 2023 c. 46 Sch. para. 16(3)
- s. 225(7)(8) inserted by 2023 c. 46 Sch. para. 17

– s. 227(1)(zb)(zc) inserted by 2023 c. 46 Sch. para. 18