
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2009 No. 2402

The European Public Limited-Liability Company (Employee Involvement) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2009

PART 8

PROTECTION FOR MEMBERS OF SPECIAL NEGOTIATING BODY ETC.

Right to time off for members of special negotiating body etc.

26.—(1) Where an employee is any of the following—

- (a) a member of a special negotiating body,
- (b) a member of a representative body,
- (c) an information and consultation representative,
- (d) an employee member on a supervisory or administrative organ,
- (e) a candidate in an election in which any person elected will, on being elected, be such a member or a representative,

the employee is entitled to be permitted by the employer to take reasonable time off during working hours in order to perform functions as such a member, representative or candidate.

(2) In this regulation “working hours” means any time when, in accordance with the employee’s contract of employment, the employee is required to be at work.

Right to remuneration for time off under regulation 26

27.—(1) An employee who is permitted to take time off under regulation 26 is entitled to be paid remuneration by the employer for the time taken off at the appropriate hourly rate.

(2) Chapter 4 of Part 1 of the 1996 Order (a week’s pay) applies in relation to this regulation as it applies in relation to Article 90 of the 1996 Order.

(3) The appropriate hourly rate, in relation to an employee, is the amount of one week’s pay divided by the number of normal working hours in a week for that employee when employed under the contract of employment in force on the day when the time is taken.

(4) But where the number of normal working hours differs from week to week or over a longer period, the amount of one week’s pay is to be divided instead by—

- (a) the average number of normal working hours calculated by dividing by twelve the total number of the employee’s normal working hours during the period of twelve weeks ending with the last complete week before the day on which the time off is taken, or
 - (b) where the employee has not been employed for a sufficient period to enable the calculation to be made under sub-paragraph (a), a number which fairly represents the number of normal working hours in a week having regard to such of the considerations specified in paragraph (5) as are appropriate in the circumstances.
- (5) The considerations are—

- (a) the average number of normal working hours in a week which the employee could expect in accordance with the terms of the contract;
 - (b) the average number of normal working hours of other employees engaged in relevant comparable employment with the same employer.
- (6) A right to any amount under paragraph (1) does not affect any right of an employee in relation to remuneration under the employee's contract of employment.
- (7) But—
- (a) any contractual remuneration paid to an employee in respect of a period of time off under regulation 26 goes towards discharging any liability of the employer to pay remuneration under paragraph (1) in respect of that period, and
 - (b) conversely, any payment of remuneration under paragraph (1) in respect of a period goes towards discharging any liability of the employer to pay contractual remuneration in respect of that period.

Right to time off: complaints to tribunals

- 28.**—(1) An employee may present a complaint to an industrial tribunal that the employer—
- (a) has unreasonably refused to permit the employee to take time off as required under regulation 26, or
 - (b) has failed to pay the whole or any part of any amount to which the employee is entitled under regulation 27.
- (2) A tribunal must not consider a complaint under this regulation unless it is presented—
- (a) before the end of the period of three months beginning with the day on which the time off was taken or on which it is alleged 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.
- (3) Where a tribunal finds a complaint under this regulation well-founded, the tribunal must make a declaration to that effect.
- (4) If the complaint is that the employer has unreasonably refused to permit the employee to take time off, the tribunal must also order the employer to pay to the employee an amount equal to the remuneration to which the employee would have been entitled under regulation 27 if the employer had not refused.
- (5) If the complaint is that the employer has failed to pay the employee the whole or part of any amount to which the employee is entitled under regulation 27, the tribunal must also order the employer to pay to the employee the amount which it finds is due to the employee.

Unfair dismissal

- 29.**—(1) An employee who is dismissed is to be regarded as unfairly dismissed for the purposes of Part 11 of the 1996 Order if—
- (a) paragraph (2) applies to the employee and the reason (or, if more than one, the principal reason) for the dismissal is a reason specified in paragraph (3), or
 - (b) paragraph (5) applies to the employee and the reason (or, if more than one, the principal reason) for the dismissal is a reason specified in paragraph (6).
- (2) This paragraph applies to an employee who is any of the following—
- (a) a member of a special negotiating body;

- (b) a member of a representative body;
 - (c) an information and consultation representative;
 - (d) an employee member in a supervisory or administrative organ;
 - (e) a candidate in an election in which any person elected will, on being elected, be such a member or a representative.
- (3) The reasons are—
- (a) that the employee performed, or proposed to perform, any functions or activities as such a member, representative or candidate (but see paragraph (4));
 - (b) that the employee, or a person acting on behalf of the employee, made or proposed to make a request to exercise an entitlement conferred on the employee by regulation 26 or 27.
- (4) Paragraph (3)(a) does not apply if—
- (a) the reason (or principal reason) for the dismissal is that, in the performance or purported performance of the employee’s functions or activities, the employee has disclosed any information or document in breach of the duty in regulation 24, and
 - (b) the case is not one where the employee reasonably believed the disclosure to be a “protected disclosure” within the meaning given by Article 67A of the 1996 Order.
- (5) This paragraph applies to any employee (whether or not paragraph (2) also applies).
- (6) The reasons are that the employee did any of the following—
- (a) took, or proposed to take, any proceedings before an industrial tribunal to enforce any right conferred on the employee by these Regulations;
 - (b) exercised, or proposed to exercise, any entitlement to apply or complain to the Industrial Court or the High Court conferred by these Regulations or exercised, or proposed to exercise, the right to appeal in connection with any rights conferred by these Regulations;
 - (c) acted with a view to securing that a special negotiating body, a representative body or an information and consultation procedure did or did not come into existence;
 - (d) indicated that the employee did or did not support the coming into existence of a special negotiating body, a representative body or an information and consultation procedure;
 - (e) stood as a candidate in an election in which any person elected would, on being elected, be a member of a special negotiating body or a representative body, an employee member on a supervisory or administrative organ, or an information and consultation representative;
 - (f) influenced, or sought to influence, by lawful means the way in which votes were to be cast by other employees in a ballot arranged under these Regulations;
 - (g) voted in such a ballot;
 - (h) expressed doubts, whether to a ballot supervisor or otherwise, as to whether such a ballot had been properly conducted;
 - (i) proposed to do, failed to do, or proposed to decline to do, any of the things mentioned in sub-paragraphs (d) to (h).
- (7) It is immaterial for the purposes of sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (6)—
- (a) whether or not the employee has the right, or
 - (b) whether or not the right has been infringed,
- but for that sub-paragraph to apply, the claim to the right and, if applicable, the claim that it has been infringed must be made in good faith.

Subsidiary provisions relating to unfair dismissal

30.—(1) In Article 137 of the 1996 Order (redundancy as unfair dismissal) in paragraph (1) (c) (which requires one of paragraphs (2) to (7J) to apply for a person to be treated as unfairly dismissed)(1) for “(7J)” substitute “(7K)”.

(2) After paragraph (7J) of that Article insert—

“(7K) This paragraph applies if the reason (or, if more than one, the principal reason) for which the employee was selected for dismissal was one specified in paragraph (3) or (6) of regulation 29 of the European Public Limited-Liability Company (Employee Involvement) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2009 (S.I.2009/2402) (read with paragraphs (4) and (7) of that regulation).”.

(3) In Article 140 of the 1996 Order (exclusion of right: qualifying period of employment) in paragraph (3) (cases where no qualifying period of employment is required)(2) omit “or” immediately preceding sub-paragraph (q) and after that sub-paragraph insert—

“, or

(r) paragraph (1)(a) or (b) of regulation 29 of the European Public Limited-Liability Company (Employee Involvement) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2009 (S.I.2009/2402) applies.”.

Detriment

31.—(1) An employee to whom paragraph (2) or (5) applies has the right not to be subjected to any detriment by any act, or deliberate failure to act, by the employer, done on a ground specified in, respectively, paragraph (3) or (6).

(2) This paragraph applies to an employee who is any of the following—

- (a) a member of a special negotiating body;
- (b) a member of a representative body;
- (c) an information and consultation representative;
- (d) an employee member on a supervisory or administrative organ;
- (e) a candidate in an election in which any person elected will, on being elected, be such a member or representative.

(3) The grounds are—

- (a) that the employee performed or proposed to perform any functions or activities as such a member, representative or candidate (but see paragraph (4));
- (b) that the employee, or a person acting on behalf of the employee, made or proposed to make a request to exercise an entitlement conferred on the employee by regulation 26 or 27.

(4) Paragraph (3)(a) does not apply if—

- (a) the ground for the subjection to detriment is that in the performance, or purported performance, of the employee’s functions or activities the employee has disclosed any information or document in breach of the duty in regulation 24, and
- (b) the case is not one where the employee reasonably believed the disclosure to be a “protected disclosure” within the meaning given by section 67A of the 1996 Order.

(5) This paragraph applies to any employee (whether or not paragraph (2) also applies).

(1) Article 137 has been amended on a number of occasions to specify additional circumstances in which an employee dismissed by reason of redundancy is to be regarded as unfairly dismissed.

(2) Article 140(3) has been amended on a number of occasions to specify additional cases in which no qualifying period of employment is required.

- (6) The grounds are that the employee did any of the following—
- (a) took, or proposed to take, any proceedings before an industrial tribunal to enforce any right conferred on the employee by these Regulations;
 - (b) exercised, or proposed to exercise, any entitlement to apply or complain to the Industrial Court or the High Court conferred by these Regulations or exercised, or proposed to exercise, the right to appeal in connection with any rights conferred by these Regulations;
 - (c) acted with a view to securing that a special negotiating body, a representative body or an information and consultation procedure did or did not come into existence;
 - (d) indicated that the employee did or did not support the coming into existence of a special negotiating body, a representative body or an information and consultation procedure;
 - (e) stood as a candidate in an election in which any person elected would, on being elected, be a member of a special negotiating body or a representative body, an employee member on a supervisory or administrative organ, or an information and consultation representative;
 - (f) influenced, or sought to influence, by lawful means the way in which votes were to be cast by other employees in a ballot arranged under these Regulations;
 - (g) voted in such a ballot;
 - (h) expressed doubts, whether to a ballot supervisor or otherwise, as to whether such a ballot had been properly conducted;
 - (i) proposed to do, failed to do, or proposed to decline to do, any of the things mentioned in sub-paragraphs (d) to (h).
- (7) It is immaterial for the purposes of sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (6)—
- (a) whether or not the employee has the right, or
 - (b) whether or not the right has been infringed,
- but for that sub-paragraph to apply, the claim to the right and, if applicable, the claim that it has been infringed must be made in good faith.
- (8) This regulation does not apply where the detriment in question amounts to dismissal.

Detriment: enforcement and subsidiary provisions

32.—(1) An employee may present a complaint to an industrial tribunal that the employee has been subjected to a detriment in contravention of regulation 31.

(2) The provisions of Article 71(2) to (4) of the 1996 Order (complaints to industrial tribunals and remedies) apply in relation to a complaint under this regulation as they apply in relation to a complaint under Article 71 of that Order, but taking references in those provisions to the employer as references to the employer within the meaning of regulation 31(1).

(3) The provisions of Article 72(1) to (5) of the 1996 Order apply in relation to a complaint under this regulation.

Conciliation

33. In Article 20 of the Industrial Tribunals (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (conciliation)(**3**), in paragraph (1) (which specifies the proceedings and claims to which the Article applies) omit “or” immediately preceding sub-paragraph (r) and after that sub-paragraph insert—

“, or

(3) *S.I. 1996/1921 (N.I. 18)*. Article 20 has been amended on a number of occasions to specify additional proceedings and claims to which the Article applies.

- (s) under regulation [28](#) or [32](#) of the European Public Limited-Liability Company (Employee Involvement) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2009 ([S.I.2009/2402](#)).”.