

Employment Law Training

Preventing Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

Employers already have a duty to prevent sexual harassment but from October 2026, employers will require to take all reasonable steps to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace. Employers will also become liable for third party harassment.

Demonstrating compliance and mitigating risk will require reviews of internal policies as well as contractual arrangements with third parties, risk assessments and training. We can provide tailored support to help you comply with your obligations and reduce the risk of claims.

Preparing for the Employment Rights Act changes

This practical half day course is aimed at HR and business leaders and will explain the practical steps that employers can take now in order to prepare for the many changes brought about by the Act. This training course will be tailored specifically to your organisation.

Please contact innes.clark@mfmac.com for further details of these and our other training courses.

Employment Law Guide & Timeline

For a brief guide to employment law, see [1](#).

For a timeline of changes to employment law, see [2](#).

- www.mfmac.com/employment-law-guide
- www.mfmac.com/insights/employment/employment-law-reform-timeline

Useful Websites

MFMac

www.mfmac.com

New Employment Rights Guidance

www.business.gov.uk/campaign/employment-changes/

Employment Tribunal Service

www.gov.uk/courts-tribunals/employment-tribunal

Healthy Working Lives

www.healthyworkinglives.scot

GOV.UK

www.gov.uk/browse/employing-people

HM Revenue & Customs

www.hmrc.gov.uk

Health & Safety Executive

www.hse.gov.uk

ACAS

www.acas.org.uk

Information Commissioner's Office

www.ico.org.uk

Equality & Human Rights Commission

www.equalityhumanrights.com

CIPD

www.cipd.co.uk

Keep Up to Date

Our monthly email updates provide practical information highlighting changes in employment procedures and law as well as details of the **employment webinars** we run throughout the year.

Email us at employment@mfmac.com to subscribe to our email updates.

Our **employment law podcasts** are available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

About Us

MFMac is one of Scotland's largest independent law firms. Our highly rated employment law team is ranked in Band 1 for employment law by Chambers and Partners and includes our market-leading business immigration team.



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Because legal matters

Employment Law Factcard

2026/27



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Disciplinary Checklist

- ✓ So far as possible, separate the role of investigator, disciplinary hearing decision maker and appeal hearing decision maker.
- ✓ Consider suspension of employee (on full pay) pending investigations.
- ✓ Investigate fully and promptly.
- ✓ Give employee reasonable notice in writing of meeting, full details of complaint, copies of any witness statements/other relevant documentation, advise it is a disciplinary matter and detail all possible outcomes.
- ✓ Invite employee in writing to bring fellow employee/ trade union representative to meeting.
- ✓ Put allegations in full to employee and provide employee with opportunity to respond.
- ✓ Take full minutes of all investigatory and disciplinary meetings.
- ✓ Adjourn before giving a decision.
- ✓ Confirm decision in writing.
- ✓ Always advise employee of right of appeal and how it should be exercised.
- ✓ Employee must be invited to appeal hearing if appeal requested.
- ✓ Always ensure you follow the ACAS code of practice on disciplinary and grievance procedures.

Unfair dismissal awards can now exceed £145,000. Always ensure a fair procedure is followed.

Redundancy Checklist

- ✓ Consider whether Form HR1 requires to be submitted (if 20 or more redundancies).
- ✓ Follow the collective consultation requirements (if 20 or more redundancies).
- ✓ Consider whether employee representatives require to be elected/consulted.
- ✓ Consult with employees on business reasons for redundancies.
- ✓ Follow any written redundancy procedure.
- ✓ Identify a redundancy pool.
- ✓ Adopt fair selection criteria.
- ✓ Consult with employees regarding avoiding/reducing redundancies and procedure to be adopted.
- ✓ Advise employees of their score and how it was arrived at.
- ✓ Consider the possibility of 'bumping' and seek the views of the employee.
- ✓ Consider alternative employment.
- ✓ Follow a fair procedure, including a right of appeal.
- ✓ Document all of the above.

If you fail to do any of the above, then any dismissal may be unfair. Additional steps may be required depending on the circumstances.

Statutory Redundancy Pay

The following is a link to a redundancy payment calculator:

www.gov.uk/calculate-employee-redundancy-pay

Tribunal Awards

Employment Right	Maximum
Unfair dismissal (For dismissals from 6 April 2026)	
Basic award	£22,530
Compensatory award*	£123,543
A week's pay	£751
Additional award	26 to 52 weeks' pay
Dismissal for health and safety reasons	No limit
Dismissal for making a protected disclosure (whistleblowing)	No limit
Discrimination	
Sex, race, age, sexual orientation, disability, religion/belief, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership and pregnancy/maternity	No limit
Breach of contract	£25,000

*There is also a 12 months' pay cap on the compensatory award for unfair dismissal. The cap on the compensatory award is the lower of £123,543 or 12 months' pay (based on the claimant's gross salary prior to the dismissal including employer pension contributions, but excluding benefits-in-kind and discretionary bonuses).

Dismissals for whistleblowing or related to certain health and safety reasons remain uncapped as do dismissals where there has been unlawful discrimination.

From 1 January 2027 the cap on all unfair dismissal claims will be removed.

National Minimum Wage

(From April 2026)

National living wage rate (21 and over)	£12.71 per hour
18 to 20	£10.85 per hour
Under 18 and Apprentice rate	£8.00 per hour

- A worker who is under 18 must be at least of school leaving age to get the National Minimum Wage.
- Apprentice rate applies to apprentices under 19 or 19 and over in the first year of their apprenticeship.
- Rates will change in April 2027.

Family Friendly Leave

Maternity leave	39 weeks / 13 weeks unpaid
Paternity leave	2 weeks paid
Adoption leave	39 weeks paid / 13 weeks unpaid
Shared parental leave	37 weeks paid / 13 weeks unpaid
Parental leave	18 weeks unpaid
Parental bereavement leave	2 weeks paid
Bereaved partner's paternity leave	52 weeks unpaid
Carer's leave	1 week unpaid
Neonatal care leave	12 weeks paid

- Figures shown are the maximum statutory entitlement.
- Contractual entitlement may be more generous.
- Certain leave is subject to employee meeting qualifying criteria.
- Paid leave is subject to certain qualifying criteria and statutory limits.
- Shared Parental Leave (SPL) is available to eligible parents of babies or children placed for adoption. If the parent reduces their maternity/adoption leave entitlement, then they and/or their partner may take any remaining weeks as SPL.

See: www.gov.uk/browse/working/time-off for further details.

Statutory Holiday Entitlement

Minimum holiday entitlement for a full-time employee is 28 days (inclusive of public holidays).

Statutory Notice

- Employee entitled to 1 week's notice for each year of service up to a maximum of 12 weeks. If contractual notice is more generous, then it prevails.
- Employer entitled to only 1 week's notice of termination by employee unless contract specifies a longer period.