

Labour's big plans for employment law

Gareth Brahams and Amanda Steadman

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What are we going to cover today?



Gareth BrahamsManaging Partner



Amanda Steadman Principal Knowledge Lawyer

Employment status
Contracts and pay
Equality law
Work life balance
Family leave
Other statutory rights
Mandatory employer reporting
Disputes and dismissals
Tribunals and enforcement
What else?



Introduction

• "A New Deal for Working People" -September 2021 (and later iterations) "Labour has transformed the world of work before and can do so again"

"Make Work Pay" - May 2024

The Labour Party Manifesto 2024 June 2024

"...a step change is needed in how working people exercise control over their working lives"

Labour "...will deliver the biggest upgrade to rights at work for a generation"



Employment status

Creation of a single worker status

Better rights for the self-employed

Regulating internships



Contracts and pay

Regulating zero-hours contracts

- Banning "exploitative" zero-hours contracts
- Right to a contract with regular hours after 12 weeks
- Requirement to give reasonable notice of changes to working time

Non-compete clauses

Will they be restricted to a maximum of three months?

National minimum wage

Increase to reflect the cost of living and removal of age bands



Equality law

Harassment at work

- Stronger duty to prevent sexual harassment
- Protection from harassment by third parties

Dual discrimination

- Enacting
 "combined
 discrimination"
 in EqA
- May create up to 21 new "dual protected characteristics"

Equal pay

- Outsourcing
- Enforcement unit
- Equal pay claims based on race and disability



Work life balance







Strengthening flexible working rights

New right to disconnect outside of normal working hours

Regulating employee surveillance



Family leave

Parental leave

- Review of the parental leave framework
- Removal of the qualifying period for parental leave

Carer's leave

 Consideration of the introduction of paid carer's leave

Bereavement leave

- New right to take bereavement leave
- Unclear when it will apply and whether it will be paid or unpaid



Other statutory rights

Strengthening whistleblowing protection

Strengthening rights and protections in TUPE situations

Statutory rights

Review of health and safety law and guidance

Improving access to Statutory
Sick Pay



Mandatory employer reporting

Applicable to employers with 250+ employees





Disputes and dismissals

Collective grievances and Acas

Unfair dismissal to become a Day 1 right **BUT** no lifting of the compensation cap

Restricting the dismissal of pregnant workers and maternity leave returners

Restricting the use of fire and rehire practices

Changing the trigger for consultation on collective redundancies



Tribunals and enforcement

Employment Tribunal claims

- Time limits for claims increased from 3 to 6 months
- Further digitisation of the Employment Tribunal system
- No plans to introduce fees

Introduction of a Single Enforcement Body

- Single body to take over state enforcement of:
 - √ health and safety
 - √ minimum wage
 - √ worker exploitation
 - ✓ discriminatory practices against migrant workers



What else?

- Wide-ranging measures to strengthen trade unions
- Introduction of sectoral collective bargaining on pay
- Ohanges to treatment of working time
- No reinstatement of the bankers' bonus cap
- Fair allocation of tips
- Enactment of the public sector socio-economic duty



Our contact details



Gareth Brahams
Managing Partner
+44 (0)203 828 0352
GarethBrahams@bdbf.co.uk



Amanda Steadman
Principal Knowledge Lawyer
+44 (0)20 3828 0363
AmandaSteadman@bdbf.co.uk





Putting experience to work

Kings House, 36 King Street, London EC2V 8BB

Office: +44 (0)20 3828 0350

www.bdbf.co.uk

