



Employment Rights (Dispute Resolution) Act 1998

1998 CHAPTER 8

An Act to rename industrial tribunals and amend the law relating to those tribunals; to amend the law relating to dismissal procedures agreements and other alternative methods of resolving disputes about employment rights; to provide for the adjustment of awards of compensation for unfair dismissal in cases where no use is made of internal procedures for appealing against dismissal; to make provision about cases involving both unfair dismissal and disability discrimination; and for connected purposes. [8th April 1998]

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

PART I

EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNALS

Renaming of tribunals

1 Industrial tribunals to be known as employment tribunals

- (1) Industrial tribunals are renamed employment tribunals.
- (2) Accordingly, the Industrial Tribunals Act 1996 may be cited as the Employment Tribunals Act 1996; and (wherever they occur in any enactment)—
 - (a) for the words “industrial tribunal” substitute “employment tribunal”,
 - (b) for the words “industrial tribunals” substitute “employment tribunals”,

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- (c) for the words “the Industrial Tribunals Act 1996” substitute “the Employment Tribunals Act 1996”,
- (d) for the words “President of the Industrial Tribunals (England and Wales)” substitute “President of the Employment Tribunals (England and Wales)”, and
- (e) for the words “President of the Industrial Tribunals (Scotland)” substitute “President of the Employment Tribunals (Scotland)”.

Hearings etc.

2 Determinations without a hearing or full hearing

In section 7 of the Employment Tribunals Act 1996 (which authorises the making of employment tribunal procedure regulations), after subsection (3) insert—

“(3A) Employment tribunal procedure regulations may authorise the determination of proceedings without any hearing (and in private) where the parties have given their written consent (whether or not they have subsequently withdrawn it).

(3B) Employment tribunal procedure regulations may authorise the determination of proceedings without hearing anyone other than the person or persons by whom the proceedings are brought (or his or their representatives) where—

- (a) the person (or, where more than one, each of the persons) against whom the proceedings are brought has done nothing to contest the case, or
- (b) it appears from the application made by the person (or, where more than one, each of the persons) bringing the proceedings that he is not (or they are not) seeking any relief which an employment tribunal has power to give or that he is not (or they are not) entitled to any such relief.

(3C) Employment tribunal procedure regulations may authorise the determination of proceedings without hearing anyone other than the person or persons by whom, and the person or persons against whom, the proceedings are brought (or his or their representatives) where—

- (a) an employment tribunal is on undisputed facts bound by the decision of a court in another case to dismiss the case of the person or persons by whom, or of the person or persons against whom, the proceedings are brought, or
- (b) the proceedings relate only to a preliminary issue which may be heard and determined in accordance with regulations under section 9(4).”

3 Hearings etc. by chairman alone

(1) In section 4 of the Employment Tribunals Act 1996 (which makes provision about the composition of an employment tribunal), subsection (3) (which specifies the tribunal proceedings which are to be heard by the chairman alone unless he decides otherwise) is amended in accordance with subsections (2) to (5).

(2) In paragraph (a) (which specifies proceedings under the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992)—

- (a) after “proceedings” insert “on a complaint under section 68A or 192 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 or”, and

- (b) for “the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992” substitute “that Act”.
- (3) In paragraph (c) (which specifies proceedings under the Employment Rights Act 1996)
- (a) after “proceedings” insert “on a reference under section 11, 163 or 170 of the Employment Rights Act 1996,”
 - (b) after “section 23” insert “, 34”
 - (c) for “the Employment Rights Act 1996 or” substitute “that Act, on a complaint under section 70(1) of that Act relating to section 64 of that Act,” and
 - (d) after “that” insert “Act or for an appointment under section 206(4) of that”.
- (4) After that paragraph insert—
- “(ca) proceedings on a complaint under regulation 11(5) of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981,”.
- (5) Omit paragraph (f) (which specifies proceedings in which the person bringing the proceedings has given written notice withdrawing the case), apart from the word “and”.
- (6) After subsection (6) of that section (which makes provision for employment tribunal procedure regulations to provide that any act required or authorised by the regulations to be done by a tribunal may be done by the chairman alone) insert—
- “(6A) Subsection (6) in particular enables employment tribunal procedure regulations to provide that—
 - (a) the determination of proceedings in accordance with regulations under section 7(3A), (3B) or (3C)(a),
 - (b) the carrying-out of pre-hearing reviews in accordance with regulations under subsection (1) of section 9 (including the exercise of powers in connection with such reviews in accordance with regulations under paragraph (b) of that subsection), or
 - (c) the hearing and determination of a preliminary issue in accordance with regulations under section 9(4) (where it involves hearing witnesses other than the parties or their representatives as well as where, in accordance with regulations under section 7(3C)(b), it does not),may be done by the person mentioned in subsection (1)(a) alone.”

4 Hearings by chairman and one other member

In subsection (1) of section 4 of the Employment Tribunals Act 1996 (which provides that, subject to the following provisions of that section, employment tribunal proceedings are to be heard by the chairman and either two other members or, with the consent of the parties, one other member), for paragraph (b) substitute—

- “(b) two other members selected as the other members in accordance with regulations so made or, with appropriate consent, one other member selected as the other member in accordance with regulations so made;

and in paragraph (b) “appropriate consent” means either consent given at the beginning of the hearing by such of the parties as are then present in person or represented, or consent given by each of the parties.”

*Other provisions***5 Legal officers**

After subsection (6A) of section 4 of the Employment Tribunals Act 1996 (which is inserted by section 3(6) of this Act) insert—

“(6B) Employment tribunal procedure regulations may (subject to subsection (6C)) also provide that any act which—

- (a) by virtue of subsection (6) may be done by the person mentioned in subsection (1)(a) alone, and
- (b) is of a description specified by the regulations for the purposes of this subsection,

may be done by a person appointed as a legal officer in accordance with regulations under section 1(1); and any act so done shall be treated as done by an employment tribunal.

(6C) But regulations under subsection (6B) may not specify—

- (a) the determination of any proceedings, other than proceedings in which the parties have agreed the terms of the determination or in which the person bringing the proceedings has given notice of the withdrawal of the case, or
- (b) the carrying-out of pre-hearing reviews in accordance with regulations under section 9(1).”

6 Jurisdiction in cases about political fund contributions

For section 87 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (which provides that a person who alleges that his employer has failed to comply with section 86 of that Act by wrongly deducting a political fund contribution or refusing to deduct union dues may make an application to a county court or sheriff court) substitute—

“87 Complaint in respect of employer’s failure

- (1) A person who claims his employer has failed to comply with section 86 in deducting or refusing to deduct any amount from emoluments payable to him may present a complaint to an employment tribunal.
- (2) A tribunal shall not consider a complaint under subsection (1) unless it is presented—
 - (a) within the period of three months beginning with the date of the payment of the emoluments or (if the complaint relates to more than one payment) the last of the payments, or
 - (b) where the tribunal is satisfied that it was not reasonably practicable for the complaint to be presented within that period, within such further period as the tribunal considers reasonable.
- (3) Where on a complaint under subsection (1) arising out of subsection (3) (refusal to deduct union dues) of section 86 the question arises whether the employer’s refusal to deduct an amount was attributable to the giving of the certificate

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or was otherwise connected with the duty imposed by subsection (1) of that section, it is for the employer to satisfy the tribunal that it was not.

- (4) Where a tribunal finds that a complaint under subsection (1) is well-founded—
- (a) it shall make a declaration to that effect and, where the complaint arises out of subsection (1) of section 86, order the employer to pay to the complainant the amount deducted in contravention of that subsection less any part of that amount already paid to him by the employer, and
 - (b) it may, if it considers it appropriate to do so in order to prevent a repetition of the failure, make an order requiring the employer to take, within a specified time, the steps specified in the order in relation to emoluments payable by him to the complainant.
- (5) A person who claims his employer has failed to comply with an order made under subsection (4)(b) on a complaint presented by him may present a further complaint to an employment tribunal; but only one complaint may be presented under this subsection in relation to any order.
- (6) A tribunal shall not consider a complaint under subsection (5) unless it is presented—
- (a) after the end of the period of four weeks beginning with the date of the order, but
 - (b) before the end of the period of six months beginning with that date.
- (7) Where on a complaint under subsection (5) a tribunal finds that an employer has, without reasonable excuse, failed to comply with an order made under subsection (4)(b), it shall order the employer to pay to the complainant an amount equal to two weeks' pay.
- (8) Chapter II of Part XIV of the Employment Rights Act 1996 (calculation of a week's pay) applies for the purposes of subsection (7) with the substitution for section 225 of the following—

For the purposes of this Chapter in its application to subsection (7) of section 87 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, the calculation date is the date of the payment, or (if more than one) the last of the payments, to which the complaint related.”

PART II

OTHER METHODS OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Arbitration

7 ACAS arbitration scheme

After section 212 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 insert—

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“212A Arbitration scheme for unfair dismissal cases etc

- (1) ACAS may prepare a scheme providing for arbitration in the case of disputes involving proceedings, or claims which could be the subject of proceedings, before an employment tribunal arising out of a contravention or alleged contravention of—
 - (a) Part X of the Employment Rights Act 1996 (unfair dismissal), or
 - (b) any enactment specified in an order made by the Secretary of State.
- (2) When ACAS has prepared such a scheme it shall submit a draft of the scheme to the Secretary of State who, if he approves it, shall make an order—
 - (a) setting out the scheme, and
 - (b) making provision for it to come into effect.
- (3) ACAS may from time to time prepare a revised version of such a scheme and, when it has done so, shall submit a draft of the revised scheme to the Secretary of State who, if he approves it, shall make an order—
 - (a) setting out the revised scheme, and
 - (b) making provision for it to come into effect.
- (4) ACAS may take any steps appropriate for promoting awareness of a scheme prepared under this section.
- (5) Where the parties to any dispute within subsection (1) agree in writing to submit the dispute to arbitration in accordance with a scheme having effect by virtue of an order under this section, ACAS shall refer the dispute to the arbitration of a person appointed by ACAS for the purpose (not being an officer or employee of ACAS).
- (6) Nothing in the Arbitration Act 1996 shall apply to an arbitration conducted in accordance with a scheme having effect by virtue of an order under this section except to the extent that the order provides for any provision of Part I of that Act so to apply; and the order may provide for any such provision so to apply subject to modifications.
- (7) A scheme set out in an order under this section may, in relation to an arbitration conducted in accordance with the law of Scotland, make provision—
 - (a) that a reference on a preliminary point may be made, or
 - (b) conferring a right of appeal which shall lie,
 to the relevant court on such grounds and in respect of such matters as may be specified in the scheme; and in this subsection “relevant court” means such court, being the Court of Session or the Employment Appeal Tribunal, as may be specified in the scheme, and a different court may be specified as regards different grounds or matters.
- (8) Where a scheme set out in an order under this section includes provision for the making of re-employment orders in arbitrations conducted in accordance with the scheme, the order setting out the scheme may require employment tribunals to enforce such orders—
 - (a) in accordance with section 117 of the Employment Rights Act 1996 (enforcement by award of compensation), or
 - (b) in accordance with that section as modified by the order.

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For this purpose “re-employment orders” means orders requiring that persons found to have been unfairly dismissed be reinstated, re-engaged or otherwise re-employed.

- (9) An order under this section setting out a scheme may provide that, in the case of disputes within subsection (1)(a), such part of an award made in accordance with the scheme as is specified by the order shall be treated as a basic award of compensation for unfair dismissal for the purposes of section 184(1)(d) of the Employment Rights Act 1996 (which specifies such an award as a debt which the Secretary of State must satisfy if the employer has become insolvent).
- (10) An order under this section shall be made by statutory instrument.
- (11) No order shall be made under subsection (1)(b) unless a draft of the statutory instrument containing it has been laid before Parliament and approved by a resolution of each House.
- (12) A statutory instrument containing an order under this section (other than one of which a draft has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament) shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.”

8 Effect of arbitration agreements

- (1) In section 77 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (subsection (3) of which prohibits contracting out of the provisions of that Act or the Equal Pay Act 1970, but subject to exceptions specified in subsection (4)), after subsection (4C) insert—

“(4D) An agreement under which the parties agree to submit a dispute to arbitration—

- (a) shall be regarded for the purposes of subsection (4)(a) and (aa) as being a contract settling a complaint if—
 - (i) the dispute is covered by a scheme having effect by virtue of an order under section 212A of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, and
 - (ii) the agreement is to submit it to arbitration in accordance with the scheme, but
- (b) shall be regarded for those purposes as neither being nor including such a contract in any other case.”

- (2) In section 72 of the Race Relations Act 1976 (subsection (3) of which prohibits contracting out of the provisions of that Act, but subject to exceptions specified in subsection (4)), after subsection (4C) insert—

“(4D) An agreement under which the parties agree to submit a dispute to arbitration—

- (a) shall be regarded for the purposes of subsection (4)(a) and (aa) as being a contract settling a complaint if—
 - (i) the dispute is covered by a scheme having effect by virtue of an order under section 212A of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, and
 - (ii) the agreement is to submit it to arbitration in accordance with the scheme, but

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- (b) shall be regarded for those purposes as neither being nor including such a contract in any other case.”
- (3) In section 288 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (subsection (1) of which prohibits contracting out of the provisions of that Act, but subject to exceptions specified in subsections (2) and (2A)), after subsection (5) insert—
- “(6) An agreement under which the parties agree to submit a dispute to arbitration—
- (a) shall be regarded for the purposes of subsections (2) and (2A) as being an agreement to refrain from instituting or continuing proceedings if—
- (i) the dispute is covered by a scheme having effect by virtue of an order under section 212A, and
- (ii) the agreement is to submit it to arbitration in accordance with the scheme, but
- (b) shall be regarded for those purposes as neither being nor including such an agreement in any other case.”
- (4) In section 9 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (subsection (1) of which prohibits contracting out of the provisions of Part II of that Act, but subject to exceptions specified in subsection (2)), after subsection (5) insert—
- “(6) An agreement under which the parties agree to submit a dispute to arbitration—
- (a) shall be regarded for the purposes of subsection (2) as being an agreement not to institute, or an agreement not to continue, proceedings if—
- (i) the dispute is covered by a scheme having effect by virtue of an order under section 212A of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, and
- (ii) the agreement is to submit it to arbitration in accordance with the scheme, but
- (b) shall be regarded as neither being nor including such an agreement in any other case.”
- (5) In section 203 of the Employment Rights Act 1996 (subsection (1) of which prohibits contracting out of the provisions of that Act, but subject to exceptions specified in subsection (2)), after subsection (4) insert—
- “(5) An agreement under which the parties agree to submit a dispute to arbitration—
- (a) shall be regarded for the purposes of subsection (2)(e) and (f) as being an agreement to refrain from instituting or continuing proceedings if—
- (i) the dispute is covered by a scheme having effect by virtue of an order under section 212A of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, and
- (ii) the agreement is to submit it to arbitration in accordance with the scheme, but
- (b) shall be regarded as neither being nor including such an agreement in any other case.”

Compromise agreements

9 Advice of non-lawyer

- (1) In each of the provisions specified in subsection (2) (which provide that, for a compromise agreement to be valid, independent legal advice must have been received from a qualified lawyer), for “independent legal advice from a qualified lawyer” substitute “advice from a relevant independent adviser”.
- (2) The provisions referred to in subsection (1) are—
 - (a) section 77(4A)(c) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975,
 - (b) section 72(4A)(c) of the Race Relations Act 1976,
 - (c) section 288(2B)(c) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992,
 - (d) section 9(3)(a) of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, and
 - (e) section 203(3)(c) of the Employment Rights Act 1996.

10 Indemnity cover

- (1) In each of the provisions specified in subsection (2) (which provide that, for a compromise agreement to be valid, there must have been in force a policy of insurance covering the risk of a claim against the person who provided the advice about the agreement), for “policy of insurance” substitute “contract of insurance, or an indemnity provided for members of a profession or professional body”.
- (2) The provisions referred to in subsection (1) are—
 - (a) section 77(4A)(d) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975,
 - (b) section 72(4A)(d) of the Race Relations Act 1976,
 - (c) section 288(2B)(d) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992,
 - (d) section 9(3)(b) of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, and
 - (e) section 203(3)(d) of the Employment Rights Act 1996.

Other provisions

11 Settlements of redundancy cases

- (1) In section 18(1) of the Employment Tribunals Act 1996 (which specifies the proceedings in relation to which the provisions about conciliation apply), in paragraph (d) (proceedings under the Employment Rights Act 1996), for “or 92,” substitute “, 92 or 135,”.
- (2) In section 166(2) of the Employment Rights Act 1996 (which defines “employer’s payment” for the purposes of the provisions requiring the Secretary of State to make a payment to an employee whose employer is liable to pay him an employer’s payment), after paragraph (a) insert—
 - “(aa) a payment which his employer is liable to make to him under an agreement to refrain from instituting or continuing proceedings for a contravention or alleged contravention of section 135 which has effect by virtue of section 203(2)(e) or (f), or”.

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- (3) In section 168(1) of that Act (which specifies the amount which the Secretary of State is required to pay in respect of an employer’s payment), after paragraph (a) insert—
- “(aa) where the employer’s payment to which the employee’s application under section 166 relates is a payment which his employer is liable to make to him under an agreement having effect by virtue of section 203(2)(e) or (f), is a sum equal to the amount of the employer’s payment or of any redundancy payment which the employer would have been liable to pay to the employee but for the agreement, whichever is less, and”.

12 Dismissal procedures agreements

- (1) In section 110 of the Employment Rights Act 1996 (which provides that the statutory right not to be unfairly dismissed does not apply to employees covered by a designated dismissal procedures agreement), for subsection (2) (which provides that the statutory right nevertheless applies in the case of dismissals specified in certain statutory provisions) substitute—
- “(2) But if the agreement includes provision that it does not apply to dismissals of particular descriptions, subsection (1) does not apply in relation to a dismissal of any such description.”
- (2) In subsection (3) of that section (which specifies the matters as to which the Secretary of State must be satisfied before designating a dismissal procedures agreement), for paragraph (e) (which requires a dismissal procedures agreement to provide for arbitration or independent adjudication where a decision cannot otherwise be reached) substitute—
- “(e) the agreement includes provision either for arbitration in every case or for—
- (i) arbitration where (by reason of equality of votes or for any other reason) a decision under the agreement cannot otherwise be reached, and
 - (ii) a right to submit to arbitration any question of law arising out of such a decision, and”.
- (3) After subsection (5) of that section insert—
- “(6) Where an award is made under a designated dismissal procedures agreement—
- (a) in England and Wales it may be enforced, by leave of a county court, in the same manner as a judgment of the court to the same effect and, where leave is given, judgment may be entered in terms of the award, and
 - (b) in Scotland it may be recorded for execution in the Books of Council and Session and shall be enforceable accordingly.”
- (4) In section 184 of that Act (which specifies the debts which the Secretary of State must satisfy if an employer has become insolvent), in subsection (1)(d) (which specifies a basic award of compensation for unfair dismissal payable by the employer), after “dismissal” insert “or so much of an award under a designated dismissal procedures agreement as does not exceed any basic award of compensation for unfair dismissal to which the employee would be entitled but for the agreement”.

- (5) The amendments made by subsections (1) and (2) do not affect any dismissal procedures agreement designated by the Secretary of State before those subsections come into force.

PART III

AWARDS OF COMPENSATION

13 Internal appeal procedures and unfair dismissal awards

After section 127 of the Employment Rights Act 1996 insert—

“127A Internal appeal procedures

- (1) Where in a case in which an award of compensation for unfair dismissal falls to be made under section 112(4) or 117(3)(a) the tribunal finds that—
- (a) the employer provided a procedure for appealing against dismissal, and
 - (b) the complainant was, at the time of the dismissal or within a reasonable period afterwards, given written notice stating that the employer provided the procedure and including details of it, but
 - (c) the complainant did not appeal against the dismissal under the procedure (otherwise than because the employer prevented him from doing so),
- the tribunal shall reduce the compensatory award included in the award of compensation for unfair dismissal by such amount (if any) as it considers just and equitable.
- (2) Where in a case in which an award of compensation for unfair dismissal falls to be made under section 112(4) or 117(3)(a) the tribunal finds that—
- (a) the employer provided a procedure for appealing against dismissal, but
 - (b) the employer prevented the complainant from appealing against the dismissal under the procedure,
- the award of compensation for unfair dismissal shall include a supplementary award of such amount (if any) as the tribunal considers just and equitable.
- (3) In determining the amount of a reduction under subsection (1) or a supplementary award under subsection (2) the tribunal shall have regard to all the circumstances of the case, including in particular the chances that an appeal under the procedure provided by the employer would have been successful.
- (4) The amount of such a reduction or supplementary award shall not exceed the amount of two weeks' pay.”

14 Acts which are both unfair dismissal and disability discrimination

- (1) In section 117(6) of the Employment Rights Act 1996 (which provides for a higher additional award for an unfairly dismissed employee who is not reinstated or re-engaged as ordered in a case where the dismissal is sex or race discrimination), at the end insert “and

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- (c) a dismissal which is an act of discrimination within the meaning of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 which is unlawful by virtue of that Act.”
- (2) Section 126 of that Act (which prohibits recovery under more than one provision in the case of an act which is both unfair dismissal and sex or race discrimination) is amended as follows.
- (3) In subsection (1) (which describes the circumstances in which the section applies), for paragraph (b) substitute—
 - “(b) any one or more of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.”
- (4) In subsection (2) (which prohibits recovery under more than one provision)—
 - (a) omit “two or three”, and
 - (b) for “the other, or any of the others,” substitute “any other of them”.

PART IV

SUPPLEMENTARY AND GENERAL

15 Minor and consequential amendments and repeals

Schedule 1 (minor and consequential amendments) and Schedule 2 (repeals) have effect.

16 Northern Ireland

- (1) Subject to subsection (3), the preceding provisions of this Act (including the Schedules) do not extend to Northern Ireland.
- (2) Section 1 does not have effect to amend any reference to a tribunal or office established under the law of Northern Ireland.
- (3) Section 1(2) and Schedule 1 extend to Northern Ireland so far as they amend—
 - (a) the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975,
 - (b) the Judicial Pensions Act 1981,
 - (c) the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1992, and
 - (d) the Judicial Pensions and Retirement Act 1993.
- (4) An Order in Council under paragraph 1(1)(b) of Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Act 1974 (legislation for Northern Ireland in the interim period) which contains a statement that it is made only for purposes corresponding to any of the purposes of this Act (other than those of section 1)—
 - (a) shall not be subject to paragraph 1(4) and (5) of that Schedule (affirmative resolution of both Houses of Parliament), but
 - (b) shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

17 Commencement, transitional provisions and savings

- (1) The provisions of this Act (apart from section 16, this section and section 18 and paragraph 17(2) of Schedule 1) shall not come into force until such day as the Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument appoint; and different days may be appointed for different purposes.
- (2) An order under subsection (1) may contain such transitional provisions and savings as appear to the Secretary of State to be appropriate.
- (3) The amendment made by paragraph 17(2) of Schedule 1 shall be deemed always to have had effect.
- (4) If an appeal of the sort which lie to the Employment Appeal Tribunal by virtue of the provision made by paragraph 17(2) of Schedule 1 has been brought before the High Court or the Court of Session not later than the day on which this Act is passed, the appeal may nevertheless be brought before the Employment Appeal Tribunal within the period of 42 days beginning with that day or such longer period as that Tribunal may by order specify.

18 Short title

This Act may be cited as the Employment Rights (Dispute Resolution) Act 1998.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Section 15.

MINOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

The Courts Act 1971 (c. 23)

- 1 In Part IA of Schedule 2 to the Courts Act 1971 (which specifies the office-holders who are eligible for appointment as a circuit judge), for the entry beginning “President of Industrial Tribunals” substitute—

“President of the Employment Tribunals (England and Wales) or member of a panel of chairmen established by regulations under section 1(1) of the Employment Tribunals Act 1996 for employment tribunals for England and Wales.”

The Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (c. 65)

- 2 For section 77(4B) and (4C) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 substitute—

“(4B) A person is a relevant independent adviser for the purposes of subsection (4A)(c)—

- (a) if he is a qualified lawyer,
- (b) if he is an officer, official, employee or member of an independent trade union who has been certified in writing by the trade union as competent to give advice and as authorised to do so on behalf of the trade union,
- (c) if he works at an advice centre (whether as an employee or a volunteer) and has been certified in writing by the centre as competent to give advice and as authorised to do so on behalf of the centre, or
- (d) if he is a person of a description specified in an order made by the Secretary of State.

(4BA) But a person is not a relevant independent adviser for the purposes of subsection (4A)(c) in relation to the complainant—

- (a) if he is, is employed by or is acting in the matter for the other party or a person who is connected with the other party,
- (b) in the case of a person within subsection (4B)(b) or (c), if the trade union or advice centre is the other party or a person who is connected with the other party,
- (c) in the case of a person within subsection (4B)(c), if the complainant makes a payment for the advice received from him, or
- (d) in the case of a person of a description specified in an order under subsection (4B)(d), if any condition specified in the order in relation to the giving of advice by persons of that description is not satisfied.

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- (4BB) In subsection (4B)(a) “qualified lawyer” means—
- (a) as respects England and Wales, a barrister (whether in practice as such or employed to give legal advice), a solicitor who holds a practising certificate, or a person other than a barrister or solicitor who is an authorised advocate or authorised litigator (within the meaning of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990), and
 - (b) as respects Scotland, an advocate (whether in practice as such or employed to give legal advice), or a solicitor who holds a practising certificate.
- (4BC) In subsection (4B)(b) “independent trade union” has the same meaning as in the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
- (4C) For the purposes of subsection (4BA) any two persons are to be treated as connected—
- (a) if one is a company of which the other (directly or indirectly) has control, or
 - (b) if both are companies of which a third person (directly or indirectly) has control.”

The Race Relations Act 1976 (c. 74)

3 For section 72(4B) and (4C) of the Race Relations Act 1976 substitute—

- “(4B) A person is a relevant independent adviser for the purposes of subsection (4A)(c)—
- (a) if he is a qualified lawyer,
 - (b) if he is an officer, official, employee or member of an independent trade union who has been certified in writing by the trade union as competent to give advice and as authorised to do so on behalf of the trade union,
 - (c) if he works at an advice centre (whether as an employee or a volunteer) and has been certified in writing by the centre as competent to give advice and as authorised to do so on behalf of the centre, or
 - (d) if he is a person of a description specified in an order made by the Secretary of State.
- (4BA) But a person is not a relevant independent adviser for the purposes of subsection (4A)(c) in relation to the complainant—
- (a) if he is, is employed by or is acting in the matter for the other party or a person who is connected with the other party,
 - (b) in the case of a person within subsection (4B)(b) or (c), if the trade union or advice centre is the other party or a person who is connected with the other party,
 - (c) in the case of a person within subsection (4B)(c), if the complainant makes a payment for the advice received from him, or
 - (d) in the case of a person of a description specified in an order under subsection (4B)(d), if any condition specified in the order in relation to the giving of advice by persons of that description is not satisfied.

(4BB) In subsection (4B)(a) “qualified lawyer” means—

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (a) as respects England and Wales, a barrister (whether in practice as such or employed to give legal advice), a solicitor who holds a practising certificate, or a person other than a barrister or solicitor who is an authorised advocate or authorised litigator (within the meaning of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990), and
- (b) as respects Scotland, an advocate (whether in practice as such or employed to give legal advice), or a solicitor who holds a practising certificate.

(4BC) In subsection (4B)(b) “independent trade union” has the same meaning as in the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

(4C) For the purposes of subsection (4BA) any two persons are to be treated as connected—

- (a) if one is a company of which the other (directly or indirectly) has control, or
- (b) if both are companies of which a third person (directly or indirectly) has control.”

The Judicial Pensions Act 1981 (c. 20)

4 In column 1 of the Table in section 16 of the Judicial Pensions Act 1981 (which provides a list of judicial offices for the purposes of provisions about lump sums, widows' pensions etc.), for the entry beginning “President of Industrial Tribunals” substitute—

“Any office pensionable under section 12 of this Act”.

5 In section 17(4) of that Act (which makes special provision about lump sums for certain offices), for “the office of President of Industrial Tribunals, or any other” substitute “any”.

The Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41)

6 In Schedule 11 to the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (which specifies judges who are barred from legal practice), for the entry beginning “President of Industrial Tribunals” substitute—

“President of the Employment Tribunals (England and Wales) or member of a panel of chairmen established by regulations under section 1(1) of the Employment Tribunals Act 1996 for employment tribunals for England and Wales”.

The Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (c. 52)

7 After section 212A of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (which is inserted by section 7 of this Act) insert—

“212B Dismissal procedures agreements

ACAS may, in accordance with any dismissal procedures agreement (within the meaning of the Employment Rights Act 1996), refer any matter to the

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

arbitration of a person appointed by ACAS for the purpose (not being an officer or employee of ACAS).”

8 In section 273(2) of that Act (which specifies the provisions which do not apply to persons in Crown employment), for “section 87(3) (power of court” substitute “section 87(4)(b) (power of tribunal”.

9 (1) Section 288 of that Act (which restricts contracting out of the provisions of the Act) is amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (2B)(b) (which provides that a compromise agreement must relate to the particular complaint), for “complaint” substitute “proceedings”.

(3) For subsections (4) and (5) substitute—

“(4) A person is a relevant independent adviser for the purposes of subsection (2B)(c)—

- (a) if he is a qualified lawyer,
- (b) if he is an officer, official, employee or member of an independent trade union who has been certified in writing by the trade union as competent to give advice and as authorised to do so on behalf of the trade union,
- (c) if he works at an advice centre (whether as an employee or a volunteer) and has been certified in writing by the centre as competent to give advice and as authorised to do so on behalf of the centre, or
- (d) if he is a person of a description specified in an order made by the Secretary of State.

(4A) But a person is not a relevant independent adviser for the purposes of subsection (2B)(c) in relation to the complainant—

- (a) if he is, is employed by or is acting in the matter for the other party or a person who is connected with the other party,
- (b) in the case of a person within subsection (4)(b) or (c), if the trade union or advice centre is the other party or a person who is connected with the other party,
- (c) in the case of a person within subsection (4)(c), if the complainant makes a payment for the advice received from him, or
- (d) in the case of a person of a description specified in an order under subsection (4)(d), if any condition specified in the order in relation to the giving of advice by persons of that description is not satisfied.

(4B) In subsection (4)(a) “qualified lawyer” means—

- (a) as respects England and Wales, a barrister (whether in practice as such or employed to give legal advice), a solicitor who holds a practising certificate, or a person other than a barrister or solicitor who is an authorised advocate or authorised litigator (within the meaning of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990), and
- (b) as respects Scotland, an advocate (whether in practice as such or employed to give legal advice), or a solicitor who holds a practising certificate.

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(4C) An order under subsection (4)(d) shall be made by statutory instrument which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

(5) For the purposes of subsection (4A) any two persons are to be treated as connected—

- (a) if one is a company of which the other (directly or indirectly) has control, or
- (b) if both are companies of which a third person (directly or indirectly) has control.”

10 In section 301(1) of that Act (which provides that that Act extends to England and Wales and Scotland), after “Wales and” insert “(apart from section 212A(6)) to”.

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (c. 50)

11 For section 9(4) and (5) of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 substitute—

“(4) A person is a relevant independent adviser for the purposes of subsection (3)

(a)—

- (a) if he is a qualified lawyer,
- (b) if he is an officer, official, employee or member of an independent trade union who has been certified in writing by the trade union as competent to give advice and as authorised to do so on behalf of the trade union,
- (c) if he works at an advice centre (whether as an employee or a volunteer) and has been certified in writing by the centre as competent to give advice and as authorised to do so on behalf of the centre, or
- (d) if he is a person of a description specified in an order made by the Secretary of State.

(4A) But a person is not a relevant independent adviser for the purposes of subsection (3)(a) in relation to the complainant—

- (a) if he is, is employed by or is acting in the matter for the other party or a person who is connected with the other party,
- (b) in the case of a person within subsection (4)(b) or (c), if the trade union or advice centre is the other party or a person who is connected with the other party,
- (c) in the case of a person within subsection (4)(c), if the complainant makes a payment for the advice received from him, or
- (d) in the case of a person of a description specified in an order under subsection (4)(d), if any condition specified in the order in relation to the giving of advice by persons of that description is not satisfied.

(4B) In subsection (4)(a) “qualified lawyer” means—

- (a) as respects England and Wales, a barrister (whether in practice as such or employed to give legal advice), a solicitor who holds a practising certificate, or a person other than a barrister or solicitor who is an authorised advocate or authorised litigator (within the meaning of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990), and

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- (b) as respects Scotland, an advocate (whether in practice as such or employed to give legal advice), or a solicitor who holds a practising certificate.
- (4C) In subsection (4)(b) “independent trade union” has the same meaning as in the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (4A) any two persons are to be treated as connected—
- (a) if one is a company of which the other (directly or indirectly) has control, or
 - (b) if both are companies of which a third person (directly or indirectly) has control.”

The Employment Tribunals Act 1996 (c. 17)

- 12 (1) Section 4 of the Employment Tribunals Act 1996 (which makes provision about the composition of an employment tribunal) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1) (which provides that, subject to the following provisions of that section, tribunal proceedings are to be heard by the chairman and other members), after “Subject to the following provisions of this section” insert “and to section 7(3A)”.
 - (3) In subsection (3)(a) (which specifies the tribunal proceedings under the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 which are to be heard by the chairman alone unless he decides otherwise), after “68A” (which is inserted by section 3 of this Act) insert “, 87”.
 - (4) In subsection (6) (which makes provision for employment tribunal procedure regulations to provide that any act required or authorised by the regulations to be done by a tribunal may be done by the chairman alone), for the words from “, in such circumstances” to “tribunal may” substitute “any act which is required or authorised by the regulations to be done by an employment tribunal and is of a description specified by the regulations for the purposes of this subsection may”.
- 13 In section 5(1) of that Act (which provides for the payment of remuneration to the Presidents of the Employment Tribunals and to full-time chairmen of employment tribunals), at the end insert “and
- (d) any person who is a legal officer appointed in accordance with such regulations.”.
- 14 (1) Section 7 of that Act (which authorises the making of employment tribunal procedure regulations) is amended as follows.
- (2) Omit subsection (3)(f)(i) (which authorises the making of regulations about the persons entitled to appear and be heard on behalf of parties in tribunal proceedings).
 - (3) In subsection (4) (which provides that it is an offence to fail to comply with certain requirements imposed by an employment tribunal by virtue of regulations), after paragraph (b) insert “, or
 - (c) any requirement imposed by virtue of employment tribunal procedure regulations to give written answers for the purpose of facilitating the determination of proceedings as mentioned in subsection (3A), (3B) or (3C),”.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- 15 In section 9(4) of that Act (which enables employment tribunal procedure regulations to provide that issues relating to the entitlement to bring or contest proceedings may be heard and determined in advance), for the words “any issue” onwards substitute “separately any preliminary issue of a description prescribed by the regulations which is raised by any case.”
- 16 In section 18(1)(b) of that Act (which specifies the provisions of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 in relation to which the provisions about conciliation apply), after “68” insert “, 86”.
- 17 (1) Section 21 of that Act (jurisdiction of the Employment Appeal Tribunal) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1) (which specifies the decisions from which an appeal lies to the Employment Appeal Tribunal), at the end insert “or
 (g) this Act.”
- (3) After subsection (3) insert—
- “(4) The Appeal Tribunal also has any jurisdiction in respect of matters other than appeals which is conferred on it by or under—
- (a) the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992,
 (b) this Act, or
 (c) any other Act.”

The Employment Rights Act 1996 (c. 18)

- 18 In section 23 of the Employment Rights Act 1996 (which makes provision for complaints to an employment tribunal in respect of unlawful deductions from wages etc.), at the end insert—
- “(5) No complaint shall be presented under this section in respect of any deduction made in contravention of section 86 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (deduction of political fund contribution where certificate of exemption or objection has been given).”
- 19 In section 112(4) of that Act (which provides for the making of an award of compensation for unfair dismissal in accordance with sections 118 to 127 where no order for reinstatement or order for re-engagement is made), for “127” substitute “127A”.
- 20 In section 117(3)(a) of that Act (which provides for the making of an award of compensation for unfair dismissal in accordance with sections 118 to 127 where a complainant is not reinstated or re-engaged in accordance with an order for reinstatement or an order for re-engagement), for “127” substitute “127A”.
- 21 (1) Section 118 of that Act (which provides that an award of compensation for unfair dismissal shall consist of a basic award, a compensatory award and, in certain cases, a special award) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1)(b) (which provides that an award of compensation for unfair dismissal shall include a compensatory award calculated in accordance with sections 123, 124, 126 and 127), for “and 127” substitute “, 127 and 127A(1), (3) and (4)”.
- (3) After subsection (3) insert—

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- “(4) Where section 127A(2) applies, the award shall also include a supplementary award.”
- 22 In section 122 of that Act (which makes provision for the reduction of the amount of a basic award of compensation for unfair dismissal), after subsection (3) insert—
- “(3A) Where the complainant has been awarded any amount in respect of the dismissal under a designated dismissal procedures agreement, the tribunal shall reduce or further reduce the amount of the basic award to such extent as it considers just and equitable having regard to that award.”
- 23 In section 123(1) of that Act (which makes provision for the calculation of a compensatory award in accordance with that section but subject to sections 124 and 126), for “and 126” substitute “, 126, 127 and 127A(1), (3) and (4)”.
- 24 (1) Section 203 of that Act (which restricts contracting out of the provisions of the Act) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (3)(b) (which provides that a compromise agreement must relate to the particular complaint), for “complaint” substitute “proceedings”.
- (3) For subsection (4) substitute—
- “(3A) A person is a relevant independent adviser for the purposes of subsection (3) (c)—
- (a) if he is a qualified lawyer,
 - (b) if he is an officer, official, employee or member of an independent trade union who has been certified in writing by the trade union as competent to give advice and as authorised to do so on behalf of the trade union,
 - (c) if he works at an advice centre (whether as an employee or a volunteer) and has been certified in writing by the centre as competent to give advice and as authorised to do so on behalf of the centre, or
 - (d) if he is a person of a description specified in an order made by the Secretary of State.
- (3B) But a person is not a relevant independent adviser for the purposes of subsection (3)(c) in relation to the employee or worker—
- (a) if he is, is employed by or is acting in the matter for the employer or an associated employer,
 - (b) in the case of a person within subsection (3A)(b) or (c), if the trade union or advice centre is the employer or an associated employer,
 - (c) in the case of a person within subsection (3A)(c), if the employee or worker makes a payment for the advice received from him, or
 - (d) in the case of a person of a description specified in an order under subsection (3A)(d), if any condition specified in the order in relation to the giving of advice by persons of that description is not satisfied.
- (4) In subsection (3A)(a) “qualified lawyer” means—
- (a) as respects England and Wales, a barrister (whether in practice as such or employed to give legal advice), a solicitor who holds a practising certificate, or a person other than a barrister or solicitor

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- who is an authorised advocate or authorised litigator (within the meaning of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990), and
- (b) as respects Scotland, an advocate (whether in practice as such or employed to give legal advice), or a solicitor who holds a practising certificate.”
- 25 (1) Section 219 of that Act (which enables the making of regulations for preserving continuity of employment etc. in the case of a person who is dismissed and then reinstated or re-engaged in consequence of action to which subsection (2) of the section applies) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1)—
- (a) omit “, in consequence of action to which subsection (2) applies,”,
- (b) for “or re-engaged” substitute “, re-engaged or otherwise re-employed”, and
- (c) at the end insert “in any circumstances prescribed by the regulations.”
- (3) Omit subsections (2) to (4).
- 26 In section 226(3) of that Act (which specifies the calculation date for a calculation for the purposes of section 119 or 121 which involves the notion of a week’s pay), for “or 121” substitute “, 121 or 127A”.

SCHEDULE 2

Section 15.

REPEALS

| <i>Chapter</i> | <i>Short title</i> | <i>Extent of repeal</i> |
|----------------|--|---|
| 1992 c. 52. | The Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. | Section 88. |
| 1993 c. 19. | The Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act 1993. | In Schedule 6, paragraph 4(b) and the word “and” preceding it. |
| 1996 c. 17. | The Employment Tribunals Act 1996. | In section 1(2), the words “; and the tribunals” onwards Section 4(3)(f), apart from the word “and” In section 5(1)(b), the word “and” Section 7(3)(f)(i) In section 21(1)(e), the word “or”. |
| 1996 c. 18. | The Employment Rights Act 1996. | In section 117, in subsection (6)(a), the word “and” and, in subsection (8), the words “(in accordance with sections 118 to 127)” |

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

| <i>Chapter</i> | <i>Short title</i> | <i>Extent of repeal</i> |
|----------------|--------------------|---|
| | | In section 126(2), the words “two or three” |
| | | In section 166(2)(a), the word “or” |
| | | In section 168(1)(a), the word “and” |
| | | In section 203(2)(f), the words “before an industrial tribunal” |
| | | In section 219, in subsection (1), the words “, in consequence of action to which subsection (2) applies,” and subsections (2) to (4) |
| | | In Schedule 1, paragraph 56(5) |
| | | In Schedule 2, in Part II, paragraph 18. |
