

Employment Law 2021 / 22



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Employment Law

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1. Definition of an Employee, Contracts of Employment

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Definition of an Employee

❖ Employment Law, 1.3

* Employment	<u>uw, 1.5</u>	
<u>Employee</u>	❖ s230(1) ERA 1996: An "Employee" is "An individual who works under a contract of	
	<u>employment"</u> .	
<u>Employment</u>	\triangleright <u>s230(2):</u> A "Contract of Employment" is "a contract of service whether	
Law, 1.3.2	express or implied and (if it is express) whether oral or in writing".	
Identifying a	The	
Contract of	Multiple Ready Mixed Concrete (South East) Ltd v Minister of Pensions and	
<u>Service</u>	Factor Test National Insurance [1968] 1 All ER 433:	
<u>Employment</u>	Three conditions are required:	
Law, 1.3.2	1. The servant agrees to provide work in consideration for a	
	wage.	
	2. The servant agrees, expressly or impliedly, that he will be	
	subject to the master's control in a sufficient degree.	
	 (Does the employer have "the power of deciding the 	
	thing to be done, the way the means the time and	
	the place?" – McKenna J, Ready Mixed Concrete)	
	3. The other provisions of the contract are consistent with it	
	being a contract of service.	
	■ E.g. ability to delegate may be indicative that there is	
	NOT a contract of service.	
	TWO T & CONTRACT OF SCI VICE.	
	❖ The Court will look at the true nature of the agreement, not just	
	what is written down:	
	➤ Autoclenz Itd v Belcher [2011] UKSC 41	
	The Supreme Court held that car valets were employees.	
	 Written terms in the agreement providing (a) that the valets 	
	were required to notify whether or not they were turning up	
	for work, and (b) that they could send a substitute in their	
	place, were <u>not reflective of the true relationship between</u>	
	the parties.	
Workers	★ A "worker" is (per s230(3)):	
<u>vvoikeis</u>	> An employee (see above)	
Employment	 i.e. An individual who has entered into a contract of employment. But 	
Law, 1.3.3	ALSO:	
<u>Luw, 1.3.3</u>	Someone who works under any other contract whereby the individual	
	undertakes to do or perform personally any work or services for another party	
	to the contract (who is not a client or customer of the individual).	
	to the contract (who is not a chefit of castomer of the marriadary.	
	❖ Therefore:	
	➤ All employees will be "workers" (s230(3)).	
	"Workers" can also be those who are not "employees" but are (s230(3)):	
	 Individuals who have entered into a contract with another party for 	
	work or services.	
	 Which they undertake to perform personally. 	
	,	



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Workers vs Self-Employed	rights apply t Nation Work	A right of "unfettered substitution" in the Contract is <u>not</u> consistent with "personal performance", however a conditional right may be (this depends on the nature of the condition) - see <u>Pimlico Plumbers Ltd v Smith [2017] EWCA Civ 51 (upheld by the Supreme Court in [2018] UKSC 29 (see below)).</u> Where the other party is <u>not a client/customer</u> . On between workers and self-employed is significant as certain statutory to "workers" as well as employees, but not "self-employed" e.g. Inal Minimum Wage Regulations 1999 Ling Time Regulations 1988 Time Workers (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000
	Key Identifying F	inctors
	Personal Performance	 ❖ Pimlico Plumbers Ltd v Smith [2018] UKSC 29: The Supreme Court upheld the decision of the EAT and Court of Appeal that a plumber was a "worker", and not "self-employed". ❖ To qualify as a "worker" it was necessary for Mr Smith to have undertaken to perform his work personally. ❖ The Court considered that Mr Smith had done so: ➤ The terms of Mr Smith's contract referred to personal performance (these referred to 'your skills' etc.).
		There was only a very limited right of substitution in the contract. Mr Smith had an ability to essentially "swap shifts" with other Pimlico plumbers. This right was significantly curtailed and the substitute had to come from the ranks of those bound to Pimlico in similar terms. The tribunal was entitled to hold that the dominant feature of Mr Smith's contract in such circumstances was an obligation of personal performance.
	Not a Client / Customer	Pimlico Plumbers Ltd v Smith [2018] UKSC 29: The Supreme Court also held that factors within Mr Smith's contract suggested he was not a client/customer of Pimlico.
		 ❖ Most significantly, Pimlico exercised tight control over Mr Smith, including controlling: ➤ Mr Smith's attire ➤ The administrative aspects of any job ➤ "Severe" terms as to when and how much it was obliged to pay him ➤ The suite of covenants restricting his working activities following termination.
	<u>Cases re</u> <u>Uber drivers:</u> <u>Workers</u> and not self-employed contractors - <u>Uber BV</u>	
	Particular Companies	<u>v Aslam and Others [2018] EWCA Civ 2748 (upheld in [2021] UKSC 5).</u>

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- The Supreme Court emphasised that Uber exercised significant control over drivers and noted the following factors, in particular, as being indicative of them being "workers":
 - Uber dictates the fee for a ride and therefore controls how much drivers are paid.
 - Contract terms are imposed by Uber and <u>drivers get</u>
 no say in what these are.
 - The driver's <u>choice about whether to accept requests</u> for rides is constrained by Uber:
 - E.g. the driver's rate of acceptance and cancellation is monitored and, if too many trip requests are declined / cancelled, the driver will be logged off of the app for ten minutes.
 - Uber exercises <u>significant control over the way in</u> <u>which drivers deliver their services</u>.
 - E.g. any driver who fails to maintain a required average "Uber rating" will receive a series of warnings and, if their rating does not improve, eventually have their relationship with Uber terminated.
 - Uber restricts communications between passenger and driver to the minimum necessary to perform the particular trip and takes active steps to prevent drivers from establishing any relationship with a passenger capable of extending beyond an individual ride.
- ❖ <u>Deliveroo riders</u>: <u>not workers</u> on the basis they can appoint a substitute and therefore there is no personal service (<u>R (IWGB) v</u> <u>Central Arbitration Committee [2018] EWHC 3342 (Admin)</u>).

Zero Hours Contracts

Employment
Law, 1.3.3 –
Subheading
"the Gig
Economy".

- It can be difficult to demonstrate that those operating under zero-hours contracts are employees:
 - > To be an employee, there must be a "contract of employment".
 - ➤ A key factor in determining whether "a contract" exists at all is <u>mutual</u> <u>obligations being owed between the parties</u> <u>Stephenson v Delphi Diesel</u> <u>Systems Ltd [2003] ICR 471.</u>
 - > The absence of:
 - (a) a stipulation as to minimum hours and
 - (b) any future commitment (key features of Zero-hours contracts) will generally be indicative of an <u>absence of mutuality of obligations</u>
 - *Nethermere (St Neots) Ltd v Gardiner and Another* [1984] ICR 612.
- ❖ In <u>St Ives Plymouth Ltd v Mrs D Haggerty [2008] WL 2148113 [1]</u> the EAT found that while there was a zero hours contract, <u>there were mutual obligations</u>, such that Ms Haggerty was an employee.

Implied Terms in Employment Contracts

- **❖** *Employment Law*, 1.6 − 1.7
- A number of terms are <u>implied into a Contract of Employment by both (a) the Common law, and (b)</u>
 <u>Statute</u>. These implied terms and their effect are explained below.

Obligations on an Employer

Obligations on an Employer		
Duty to Pay Wages and	Generally, an employee has no right to work.	
<u>Provide Work</u>	This means that an employer does not breach the contract of employment	
	if the employee is kept idle (Turner v Sawdon [1901] 2 KB 653).	
Employment Law, 1.7.1.1		
	❖ Exceptions	
	Workers whose livelihoods depend on publicity e.g. actors and	
	singers.	
	Employees who are paid by commission or piece workers (i.e. they	
	are paid per unit produced).	
	Employees who are:	
	In a <u>"specific and unique post".</u>	
	Where the skills necessary for the proper discharge of their	
	duties require frequent exercise .	
	 Where the terms of the contract impose an obligation to work 	
	the hours necessary to do the job in a full and professional	
	manner.	
	 William Hill Organisation Ltd v Tucker [1998] IRLR 313. 	
	 In <u>William Hill</u>, the employee was the only "Senior Dealer" in 	
	William Hill's fixed odds compiling department – the post was	
	unique to him.	
	 This exception will potentially catch senior employees. It is 	
	unlikely to catch junior employees.	
<u>Deductions from Wages</u>	❖ <u>s13 ERA 1996:</u> An employer may not make a deduction from wages unless:	
	It is <u>authorised by statute</u> e.g. <u>PAYE, NI contributions</u> .	
Employment Law, 1.8.3.2	It is <u>authorised by the contract</u> .	
<u>/1.11.1</u>	The worker has previously consented in WRITING to the making of	
	the deduction.	
	➢ OR	
	An employer is <u>recovering overpayment of wages</u> or expenses paid	
5	by mistake to the worker (s14(1)).	
Duty to Indemnify an	The employer must indemnify an employee for expenses and liabilities	
<u>Employee</u>	incurred in the course of employment.	
Francisco ant Laure 4 7 4 3	❖ In re Famatina Development Corporation Ltd [1914] 2 Ch 271	
Employment Law, 1.7.1.2	❖ Employers are under an implied duty to provide adequate plant and	
Duty to take reasonable	Employers are under an implied duty to provide adequate plant and	
care of the employee's	premises, competent fellow workers and a safe system of work. Wilsons & Clyde Coal Co Ltd v English [1938] AC 57	
safety and working	♦ Wilsons & Clyde Coal Co Ltd v English [1938] AC 57	
conditions		
Employment Law, 1.7.1.3		
Limpioyiment Law, 1.7.1.3		



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Duty of mutual trust and	Employers must not:	
<u>confidence</u>	"Without reasonable and prop	per cause
	Conduct themselves in a mani	ner calculated or likely to
Employment Law, 1.7.1.4	Destroy or seriously damage	the relationship of mutual confidence
	and trust between employer	and employee".
	Woods v WM Car Services (Pe	terborough) Ltd [1983] IRLR 413, (CA).
	Breach of this implied term will AUTO	OMATICALLY BE REPUDIATORY i.e. it
	will give the employee a right to term	ninate the contract.
	Morrow v Safeway Stores [20]	02] IRLR 9.
	Examples of Breach:	
	Unjustified imposition of a fin	al written warning
		t) Ltd v Sheridan [2003] IRLR 52.
	Serious breach of the employed	er's duty to make reasonable
	adjustments	
	■ Greenhof v Barnsley N	letropolitan BC [2006] IRLR 98.
	Sex discrimination	
	■ Shaw v CCL Ltd (UKEA [¬]	7/0512/06.
	Use of foul and abusive language	age
	 Horkulak v Cantor Fitze 	gerald International [2003] IRLR 756
	Frequent use of such I	anguage does not 'sanitise its effect' so
	as to remove its powe	
	·	s when employee was on a period of
	sick leave due to depression	
	 Private Medicine Inter- 	mediaries Ltd v Hodkinson and Others
	(EAT/0134/15)	
Duty to Take	Employers are under an implied duty	to take <u>reasonable care in compiling or</u>
Reasonable Care Giving	giving a reference and in verifying the information on which it is based.	
References	A failure to do so may render an employer liable for economic loss suffered	
	as a result of a negligent misstatement.	
Employment Law, 1.7.1.5	❖ Caparo Industries v Dickman [1990] 2 AC 605	
Duty to Notify on	❖ An employer must notify an employee in clear terms that the contract is	
Termination Without	ended.	
Notice	Société Générale v Geys [2013] IRLR 1	.22
Employment Law, 1.7.1.6		
Duty to Give Reasonable	Employers are required to give notice	e for at least the Statutory minimum
Notice	periods set out in Employment Law, 2.3.3 (s86(1) ERA 1996):	
	Period of Continuous Employment	Notice
Employment Law, 1.7.1.7	1 month – 2 years	1 week
/2.3.3	2 years – 12 years	1 week for each year
	12 years+	12 weeks
Working Time	Where the Working Time Regulations	
Regulations	Work an average of 48 hours a week in a 17 week period (which may	
	be extended for up to 52 weeks), unless they specifically opt out (Reg	
Employment Law, 1.12	4).	no, amess they specifically opt out (neg
Employment Luvy, 1.12	<u> </u>	



- ➤ 11 hours of rest between working days (Reg 10).
- A minimum of one 24 hour period of rest in a seven day period (1 day off per week) (Reg 11)
- A 20-minute break where a working day is longer than 6 hours (Reg
 12).
- > 5.6 weeks' paid leave per year (Reg 13).
- Most of these rules are subject to exceptions e.g. for workers in emergency / armed services.

National Minimum Wage Regulations

Employees are entitled to a Minimum Wage paid at the following rates:

Employment Law, 1.8.3.1

<u>Age</u>	Hourly Wage	Minimum Annual Wage (Assuming 40 Hour Week)
	(5 April 2021 <u>– 6 April</u>	(Wage x Hours per Week x 52)
	<u>2022)</u>	
23+	£8.91	
(The National Living		
Wage)		£18,532.80
21 – 22	£8.36	£17,388.80
18 – 20	£6.56	£13,644.80
Under 18 + Finished	£4.62	
School		£9,609.60
Apprentice	£4.30	£8,944.00

You can check the applicable rate here: https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates

Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)

- ❖ There is no obligation on an employer to pay an employee their salary whilst they are off work sick, they must pay the employee <u>SSP.</u>
- Employment Law, 1.8.3.3
- SSP must be paid for up to 28 weeks in any three years.
- As a result of Covid-19, the Government announced that SSP is <u>payable from</u> day 1, not day 4. Previously an employee <u>was only eligible if they had been off work for more than three consecutive days.</u>

Rate of SSP

- ❖ 6 April 2021- 5 April 2022: £96.35 per week
- ★ You can check the applicable rate here ask your tutor which rates apply to the exam.
- Note that there is a <u>possibility that an implied duty to pay an employee's</u> salary whilst they are ill may arise through custom and practice e.g. if an

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employer usually pays his staff their salary when they are off sick for a set
period of time.

Obligations on an Employee

Obligations on an Em	
Duty to Give	❖ An employee may not delegate performance of his duties.
Personal Service	This is a key factor when determining whether someone is an employee or not.
Employment Law,	
<u>1.7.2.1</u>	
<u>Duty to obey</u>	❖ The employee is under a contractual duty not wilfully to disobey a lawful order
reasonable orders	❖ Laws v London Chronicle Ltd [1959] 2 All ER 285
Employment Law,	
<u>1.7.2.2</u>	
<u>Duty of reasonable</u>	The employee is under a duty to exercise reasonable care and skill in the
care and	performance of his duties.
<u>indemnity</u>	Employee will <u>breach this duty if he is negligent and will be liable to indemnify</u>
Employment Law,	<u>his employer.</u>
<u>1.7.2.3</u>	❖ Lister v Romford Ice and Cold Storage Co Ltd [1957] AC 555.
<u>Duty of fidelity or</u>	Employees have a duty to:
good faith	Keep information confidential and
Employment Law,	Not to compete with their employer.
<u>1.7.2.4; 1.7.2.6-</u>	
<u>1.7.2.8</u>	Examples of Breaches
	Copying customer contact details and sales figures.
	Crowson Fabrics Ltd v Rider and Others [2007] EWHC 2942 (Ch).
	Deliberately misleading an employer about their intention to work for a
	competitor.
	Kynixa Ltd v Hynes and Others [2008] EWHC 1495 (Comm).
	Working for a competitor where this causes particular harm to an employer.
	Hivac Ltd v Park Royal Scientific Instruments Ltd [1946] Ch 169).
	Making a list of existing customers with the intention of using it after the
	termination of the employment relationship:
	Roger Bullivant Ltd v Ellis [1987] ICR 464
	Trying to memorise a list of existing customers with the intention of using it after
	the termination of the employment relationship:
	> Robb v Green [1895] 2 QB 315
	* Revealing trade secrets or information which is by its nature confidential, or has
	been impressed upon the employee as being confidential.
Duty not to make	Faccenda Chicken Ltd v Fowler [1986] 1 All ER 617.
Duty not to make secret profits	 An employee must not make a secret profit. If an employee does so, he can be compelled to account to his employer for the
	If an employee does so, he can be compelled to account to his employer for the profit made.
Employment Law,	·
<u>1.7.2.5</u>	❖ Boston Deep Sea Fishing and Ice Co v Ansell (1888) 39 Ch D 339

Note that the <u>protection of some of the implied terms lasts beyond the contract of employment e.g.</u>
duty not to reveal trade secrets or confidential information.

