EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT 2025 IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

SLAUGHTER AND MAY/

NOTE: These dates are indicative and subject to change

IMPLEMENTATION AT ROYAL ASSENT OR SOON AFTERWARDS:

- Repeal of Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 and most of Trade Union Act 2016.
- Simplification of industrial action notices and industrial action ballot notices.
- Protections against dismissal for taking industrial action.

APR 2026

- 7 April: Fair Work Agency established.
- Day-one paternity leave and unpaid parental leave.
- Collective redundancy maximum protective award doubled from 90 to 180 days' pay.
- Sexual harassment whistleblowing protections implemented.
- Statutory Sick Pay – removal of Lower Earnings Limit and waiting period.
- Simplification of trade union recognition process.
- Gender pay gap and menopause action plans (voluntary only until 2027).

AUG 2026

- Electronic and workplace balloting (other than in respect of recognition and derecognition ballots, which will be in 2027).

OCT 2026

- Requiring employers to take "all reasonable steps" to prevent sexual harassment of employees (*Note: 2027 for steps that are to be regarded as "reasonable" – see below).
- Introducing employer liability for third party harassment.
- Strengthening trade unions' right of access in the workplace.
- Enhanced protections for trade union representatives.
- Enhanced protections for workers against detriments for taking industrial action.
- Duty to inform workers of their right to join a trade union; strengthening of trade unions' right of access.
- Employment tribunal time limits increase from three to six months.
- Measures to ensure the fairer allocation of tips

2027

- 1 January: Unfair dismissal qualifying period reduced to six months, and compensation cap removed
- Fire and rehire changes (dismissal for failure to agree contractual variation).
- Zero hours contracts – Guaranteed Hours Offers.
- Collective redundancy – new collective consultation threshold.
- Power to enable regulations to specify steps that are to be regarded as "reasonable", to determine whether an employer has taken all reasonable steps to prevent sexual harassment.
- Enhanced protections from dismissal for pregnant women and new mothers returning from maternity leave.
- Gender pay gap and menopause action plans become mandatory (*Note: Implementation of the gender pay gap outsourcing measure will depend on related measures in the draft Equality (Race and Disability) Bill.)
- A statutory right to bereavement leave, including for those who suffer pregnancy loss before 24 weeks.
- Flexible working changes.
- Blacklisting, plus electronic and workplace balloting (in respect of recognition and derecognition ballots).
- Regulation of umbrella companies.