

## **Time off for public duties policy**

### **1. ABOUT THIS POLICY**

- 1.1 We wish to enable employees to perform any public duties that they may be committed to undertake and so will give them time off to do so where it does not conflict with the operational needs of our business. [We are not legally obliged to grant paid leave for these purposes. The circumstances in which we are prepared to do so are set out below.]
- 1.2 This policy applies to all employees.
- 1.3 This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and we may amend it at any time.

### **2. PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POLICY**

- 2.1 The Council has overall responsibility for the effective operation of this policy and for ensuring compliance with the relevant statutory framework. Day-to-day responsibility for operating the policy and ensuring its maintenance and review has been delegated to the Town Clerk.
- 2.2 Managers have a specific responsibility to ensure the fair application of this policy and all members of staff are responsible for supporting colleagues and ensuring its success.

### **3. JURY SERVICE**

- 3.1 You should tell your line manager as soon as you are summoned for jury service and provide a copy of your summons if requested.
- 3.2 Depending on the demands of our business we may request that you apply to be excused from or defer your jury service.
- 3.3 We are not required by law to pay you while you are absent on jury service. You will be advised at court of the expenses and loss of earnings that you can claim.

### **4. VOLUNTARY PUBLIC DUTIES**

- 4.1 Employees are entitled to a reasonable amount of unpaid time off work to carry out certain public duties, including duties as a tribunal member, magistrate, local councillor, member of an NHS Trust, prison visitor, police station lay visitor or school governor.
- 4.2 If you are unsure whether a public service that you perform is covered by this policy you should speak to the Town Clerk.
- 4.3 As soon as you are aware that you will require time off for performance of a public service you should notify your line manager in writing, providing full details of the time off that is being requested and the reasons for your request. In order that arrangements can be made to cover your duties in your absence you should make your request in good time.
- 4.4 Each request for time off will be considered on its merits taking account of all the circumstances, including how much time is reasonably required for the activity, how much time you have already taken, and how your absence will affect the business.
- 4.5 We may grant you up to five days' paid leave in any 12-month period to perform public duties that are not paid. Any additional leave will be granted on an unpaid basis subject to the exercise of our discretion to grant further paid leave.

## **5. RESERVE FORCES DUTIES**

- 5.1 We are aware that employees who are members of the Reserve Forces (the Territorial Army, Royal Navy Reserve, Royal Marines Reserve or Royal Auxiliary Air Force) may be called-up at any time to be deployed on full-time operations, and are expected to attend regular training.
- 5.2 We offer up to 10 days special unpaid leave per year (in addition to existing paid holiday entitlements) for reservists to undertake training. [In exceptional circumstances we may grant additional unpaid leave in order for these commitments to be met.]
- 5.3 If we receive notice that you have been called-up for active service we may apply to an adjudication officer for the notice to be deferred or revoked if your absence would cause serious harm to our business (which could not be prevented by the grant of financial assistance).
- 5.4 Once your military service has ended you may submit a written application for reinstatement to your employment. This should be made by the third Monday following the end of your military service and you should notify us of the date on which you will be available to restart work.

- 5.5 If it is not reasonable and practicable to reinstate you into your former employment we will offer you the most favourable alternative on the most favourable terms and conditions which are reasonable and practicable.
- 5.6 When calculating the length of your continuous employment with us, the period of absence on military service will not be counted. The period of employment before your mobilisation and the period after your reinstatement will be treated as continuous.