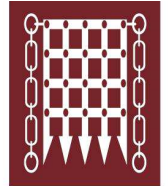


**Westminster Employment Forum Keynote Seminar:
The future for employment rights policy and practices in the UK**

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 6th December 2017

Venue: Glaziers Hall, 9 Montague Close, London SE1 9DD



**WESTMINSTER
EMPLOYMENT
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Jack Dromey MP, Shadow Minister for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
- 9.05 - 9.20 **What will employment look like in the future?**
Professor Christopher Warhurst, Director, Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick
- 9.20 - 9.35 **Priorities for the gig economy - balancing flexibility and fairness**
Hugo Martin, Director of Legal and Public Affairs, Hermes
- 9.35 - 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.00 - 11.00 **The future framework for self-employed, temporary and gig economy workers - legal status, pay and taxation**
In light of the current uncertainty surrounding the legal rights of employees contracted under unconventional forms of employment, how might the legal framework be reformed to clearly articulate such rights, and how can this information be made more available to workers? How would the introduction of 'dependent contractors', as proposed by the Taylor Review, change the relationship between workers and employers in the gig economy; will the competitiveness of platform-based companies be affected by the rights that would be extended to their contracted workers? In what way could a separate National Minimum Wage for hours worked outside contracted hours be successfully introduced, how should it be calculated, and what role should be given to the Low Pay Commission? What reforms will be required to achieve a better fit between the rules around employment status and taxation frameworks, and in what ways could reform in this area reduce incidences of abuse?
James Davies, Managing Partner, Employment Law, Lewis Silkin
Hannah Reed, Senior Employment Rights Officer, TUC
Rebecca Seeley Harris, Senior Policy Adviser, Re: Legal Consulting
Seamus Nevin, Head of Employment and Skills Policy, Institute of Directors
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**
Jack Dromey MP, Shadow Minister for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
- 11.05 - 11.45 Coffee
- 11.45 - 11.50 **Chair's opening remarks**
Max Walters, Reporter, Law Society Gazette
- 11.50 - 12.55 **Employee relations in the UK - the future for employee representation, rights and dispute resolution**
What will be the impact and practical challenges of the Government's intended introduction of new measures to improve corporate governance, including the provision of publically-available information, employee representation at the boardroom level, and a register of companies facing significant shareholder opposition to executive pay packages? How is the Government's decision to remove tribunal fees following the Supreme Court's ruling likely to affect how employees assert their rights and employer attitudes to issues in the workplace, and what steps are needed to address concerns about vexatious litigation? What should be the current policy priorities for addressing gender and other inequalities across the UK's workplaces and to support the re-introduction of individuals to the workforce following a period of absence, particularly with regard to updating digital and other skills? With the Taylor Review calling for employers and unions to collaborate more frequently at a national level, how can these groups work together in instances which require compromise, for example, to develop formal agreements regarding the use of agency workers?
Professor Susan Corby, Professor of Employment Relations, University of Greenwich
Fionnuala Horrocks-Burns, Policy Adviser - Employment and Skills, British Retail Consortium
Bill Taylor, Head of Research, CWU
Sarah Jackson, Chief Executive, Working Families
Gemma Todd, Head of Human Resources, The Imperial London Hotels
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum closing remarks**
Max Walters, Reporter, Law Society Gazette
Marc Gammon, Associate Editor, Westminster Employment Forum