



EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNALS

Claimants: Mr J Murphy
Mr N Powell

Respondents: 1. Nationwide Crash Repair Centres Limited (in administration)
2. Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

JUDGMENT

This was a determination on papers with no attendance by any party.

1. The Tribunal makes a protective award in favour of the claimants listed in the Schedule attached to this judgment and orders the respondent to pay remuneration for a protected period of 90 days beginning on 4 September 2020.
2. There is no order requiring any party to pay or reimburse another party's costs or fees. Each party shall bear their own costs and fees.
3. The Employment Protection (Recoupment of Benefits) Regulations 1996 apply to this award.

REASONS

1. The claimants listed in the attached schedule were each employed by the respondent at an establishment located off Lode Lane, Solihull.
2. On 4 September 2020, the claimants were dismissed by reason of redundancy.
3. The respondents did not fully inform and consult with the claimants in accordance with the provisions of s.188 and s.188A Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 ("the Act").
4. The claimants have raised complaints as individuals (there being no relevant employee representatives) pursuant to section 189 of the Act seeking protective awards.

5. By email dated 14 September 2021 the respondents' Administrators, with the agreement of some of the claimants, applied for a consent order with the effect of giving all claimants who had been employed by the respondent (and other companies within the group) and who had brought protective award claims and who had consented to the terms proposed a protective award of 90 days.
6. In my judgment it was not appropriate to accede to the terms of the proposed consent order as it appeared that some of the claimants worked in smaller establishments in respect of which it appeared there was unlikely to have been a proposal to make 20 or more employees redundant (see **USDAW and anor v Ethel Austin Ltd and ors [2015] ICR 675.**)
7. The proposed consent order also contained terms as to how the claims will rank in the Administration of the respondent companies which is not a matter which it is appropriate for the Tribunal to purport to rule on.
8. However, I am satisfied from information provided by the claimants to the Tribunal that Solihull was an establishment at which more than 20 people were proposed to be made redundant.
9. In the circumstances, I consider it appropriate to issue a Judgment for a 90-day protective award to the claimants who worked at that establishment and who had indicated their consent to the order proposed by the Administrators.
10. Given that the terms of the Judgment provide for a protective award for the maximum period, and that the Administrators and the Secretary of State have both indicated that they will not be actively resisting the claim, I also consider it appropriate to issue a Judgment in favour of those claimants who are only pursuing claims for a protective award, but who have not expressly indicated their agreement to the proposed consent order. Both groups of claimants based at Solihull are therefore included in the attached Schedule.
11. If any party considers that a claimant included in the Schedule has been wrongly included, then they are reminded that they may apply for a reconsideration of the Judgment. Further information is contained in the leaflet provided alongside the Judgment.

Employment Judge Dunlop
Date: 6 October 2021

SENT TO THE PARTIES ON
6 October 2021

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FOR EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNALS

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**ANNEX TO THE JUDGMENT
(PROTECTIVE AWARDS)**

Recoupment of Benefits

The following particulars are given pursuant to the Employment Protection (Recoupment of Benefits) Regulations 1996, SI 1996 No 2349.

The respondent is under a duty to give the Secretary of State the following information in writing: (a) the name, address and National Insurance number of every employee to whom the protective award relates; and (b) the date of termination (or proposed termination) of the employment of each such employee.

That information shall be given within 10 days, commencing on the day on which the Tribunal announced its judgment at the hearing. If the Tribunal did not announce its judgment at the hearing, the information shall be given within the period of 10 days, commencing on the day on which the relevant judgment was sent to the parties. In any case in which it is not reasonably practicable for the respondent to do so within those times, then the information shall be given as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter.

No part of the remuneration due to an employee under the protective award is payable until either (a) the Secretary of State has served a notice (called a Recoupment Notice) on the respondent to pay the whole or part thereof to the Secretary of State or (b) the Secretary of State has notified the respondent in writing that no such notice is to be served.

This is without prejudice to the right of an employee to present a complaint to an Employment Tribunal of the employer's failure to pay remuneration under a protective award.

If the Secretary of State has served a Recoupment Notice on the respondent, the sum claimed in the Recoupment Notice in relation to each employee will be whichever is the less of:

(a) the amount (less any tax or social security contributions which fall to be deducted by the employer) accrued due to the employee in respect of so much of the protected period as falls before the date on which the Secretary of State receives from the employer the information referred to above; OR

(b) (i) the amount paid by way of or paid as on account of jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance or income support to the employee for any period which coincides with any part of the protected period falling before the date described in (a) above; or

(ii) in the case of an employee entitled to an award of universal credit for any

period (“the UC period”) which coincides with any part of the period to which the prescribed element is attributable, any amount paid by way of or on account of universal credit for the UC period that would not have been paid if the person’s earned income for that period was the same as immediately before the period to which the prescribed element is attributable.

The sum claimed in the Recoupment Notice will be payable forthwith to the Secretary of State. The balance of the remuneration under the protective award is then payable to the employee, subject to the deduction of any tax or social security contributions.

A Recoupment Notice must be served within the period of 21 days after the Secretary of State has received from the respondent the above-mentioned information required to be given by the respondent to the Secretary of State or as soon as practicable thereafter.

After paying the balance of the remuneration (less tax and social security contributions) to the employee, the respondent will not be further liable to the employee. However, the sum claimed in a Recoupment Notice is due from the respondent as a debt to the Secretary of State, whatever may have been paid to the employee, and regardless of any dispute between the employee and the Secretary of State as to the amount specified in the Recoupment Notice.