



EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNALS

Claimants: Mr A Bagnall, Mr I Ahmed, Ms J Jardine, Ms K Rose, Ms N Zarait, Mr C McAtamney, Mr N Gregory, Mr J Green, Mr S Gayter, Mr A Squires, Ms L Crookes, Mr R Lyons, Ms S Price, Mr O Jones, Ms S Boyden, Ms H Milnes, Mr A Newey, Ms J Ratcliffe, Mr P Little, Ms P Lyndon, Mr D Rothel, Mr D Patching, Ms G Howarth, Mr J Thatcher

Respondents: 1. Just Costs Solicitors Ltd (in Administration)
2. Secretary of State for BEIS

Heard at: Manchester

On: 14 November 2019

Before: Employment Judge Franey
(sitting alone)

REPRESENTATION:

Claimants: Mrs S Shaw, Solicitor

Respondents: Did not attend

JUDGMENT

The judgment of the Tribunal is that:

1. The first respondent's London and Manchester Offices were part of one "establishment" for the purposes of section 188(1) Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
2. The first respondent failed to comply with the requirement of section 188 to consult appropriate representatives of the employees about the dismissal.
3. The first respondent is ordered to pay to each claimant remuneration for the protected period of 90 days from 25 January 2019 when the first of the dismissals took effect.

4. The recoupment regulations apply.

Employment Judge Franey

14 November 2019

JUDGMENT SENT TO THE PARTIES ON
3 December 2019

FOR THE TRIBUNAL OFFICE

Note

Reasons for the judgment having been given orally at the hearing, written reasons will not be provided unless a request was made by either party at the hearing or a written request is presented by either party within 14 days of the sending of this written record of the decision.

Public access to employment tribunal decisions

Judgments and reasons for the judgments are published, in full, online at www.gov.uk/employment-tribunal-decisions shortly after a copy has been sent to the claimant(s) and respondent(s) in a case.

Claimant: Mr A Bagnall & Others

Respondent: Just Costs Solicitors Limited (in administration)

**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 the refrom 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.