



## EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNALS

**Claimants:** A Finnemore, C Miles & 12 others

**Respondents:** Whittle Interiors Ltd (in administration) (1)  
Secretary of State Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (2)

**Heard at:** Bristol **On:** 03 May 2023

**Before:** Employment Judge Housego

### Appearances

**For the Claimants:** Alex Finnemore in person, John Thompson, solicitor of Griffin Legal LLP, for Ms Miles and the other 12 Claimants.

**For the Respondents:** Neither Respondent was represented. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Respondent sent written representations.

## JUDGMENT

### Employment Tribunals Rules of Procedure 2013 – Rule 21

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent not having presented a response to the claims and the Secretary of State making legal submissions prior to the rule 21 Judgment, and on the information before the Judge, the judgment of the Tribunal is that:**

1. The Claimants' complaints under section 189 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 ("the 1992 Act") of a failure by the 1<sup>st</sup> respondent to comply with the requirements of section 188 of the 1992 Act are well-founded.
2. The Tribunal orders the 1<sup>st</sup> respondent by way of a protective award under section 189(3) of the 1992 Act to pay to the Claimants a payment equivalent to remuneration for the period of 90 days beginning on 25 February 2022.
3. The Employment Protection (Recoupment of Jobseeker's Allowance and Income Support) Regulations 1996 apply to this award.



## REASONS

1. The Claimants claimed a protective award in respect of breaches of the collective consultation requirements under the 1992 Act. No response was presented to the claim by the 1<sup>st</sup> respondent. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Respondent asked that the Tribunal ensured that the Claimants were eligible to bring their claims. It said that it was unable to comment on whether there was a failure by the employer to consult more than 20 employees before making them redundant.
  
2. The 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent is in administration. By email dated 10 November 2022 the joint administrators consented to the claims being brought.
  
3. On full consideration of the file of proceedings it was possible to issue this Judgment under rule 21 of the Employment Tribunals (Constitution and Rules of Procedure) Regulations 2013 in respect of the claim for protective awards without a hearing.
  
4. On the information provided, the Tribunal makes the following findings.
  - 4.1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent employed over 20 employees at Unit 10, Airfield Way, Christchurch BH23 3TF.
  - 4.2. The Claimants were not a member of a recognised trade union nor part of a bargaining unit. There were no elected employee representatives.
  - 4.3. The 1st Respondent went into administration on 17 February 2022.
  - 4.4. On 25 February 2022 the Claimants (and some 30 others) were notified of termination of employment with immediate effect.
  - 4.5. There was no proper warning or notice given to or consultation with the recognised trade unions or the Claimants. There was no consultation with the claimant. In addition, no employee representatives had been elected or appointed for any such consultation within section 188A of the 1992 Act.
  
5. In the circumstances, the 1st respondent is in breach of the duty under section 188 of the 1992 Act and the Tribunal makes an award under section 189 in favour of the Claimants for the maximum protected period of 90 days commencing on 25 February 2022.



6. The 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent is advised of the provisions of regulation 6 of the Employment Protection (Recoupment of Jobseeker's Allowance and Income Support) Regulations 1996, such that, within ten days of the decision in these proceedings being promulgated or as soon as is reasonably practicable, the 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent must comply with the provisions of regulation 6 of the 1996 Regulations and, in particular, must supply to the Secretary of State the following information in writing:
- (a) The name, address and national insurance number of the Claimants to whom the award relates; and
  - (b) The date of termination of the employment of the Claimants.
7. The 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent will not be required to make any payment under the protective awards made until it has received a recoupment notice from the Secretary of State or notification that the Secretary of State does not intend to serve a recoupment notice having regard to the provisions of regulation 7(2). The Secretary of State must normally serve such recoupment notice or notification on the employer within 21 days of receipt of the required information from the 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent.

**Employment Judge Housego**

Dated: 03 May 2023

Sent to the parties on:

5 May 2023

For the Tribunal:



**ANNEX 1 TO THE JUDGMENT (CLAIMANTS in addition to A Finnemore and C Miles)**

Title / First name / Last name / Date of birth / Building number or name/ Street  
Town/City

Mr Robert Carter 21/01/1981 22 Wells Close Portsmouth  
Mr James McVay 15/10/1975 2 The Paint Yard 119a Alma Road  
Mr Jonathan Urch 25/12/1965 4 Fitzmaurice Road Christchurch  
Mr Matthew Cockram 21/10/1982 10 Cavendish Close Waterlooville  
Mr James Hilton 27/08/1984 31 Ripon Road Bournemouth  
Mr Tom Perkins 31/08/1990 Flat 4 60 Alumhurst Road Bournemouth  
Mr Thomas Woller 17/06/1982 20 Durley Chine road Cavandish Hotel  
Ms Rebecca Albrighton 13/12/1978 2 Greenwood Close New Milton  
Mr Andrew Catley 11/01/1967 240 Calmore Road Calmore  
Mr Martin Pounds 27/02/1961 2 Cardinal Place Maybush  
Mr Thomas Childs 28/12/1993 9 Trent Way Ferndown  
Ms Yvette Harris 10/10/1975 36a East Cliff Way Christchurch



## **ANNEX 2 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:

1. (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
2. (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.