

What changes has the Act made to the law?

The policy intention behind this change is to support worker participation in distribution of tips, gratuities and service charges, and to enhance the voices of workers, especially those who have traditionally had less of a voice in the workplace.

The Employment Rights Act adds a requirement that - when employers draw up their tipping - policy - they must consult the workforce (via trade-union or elected/worker representatives, or directly with workers if none exist) before publishing the policy. Moreover, the policy must be reviewed every three years, and upon review the employer must again consult workers; they must also provide an anonymised summary of feedback from that consultation to all affected workers.

In effect, the Act strengthens the law by putting a clear duty on employers not just to distribute tips fairly, but to involve staff in the design and periodic review of the tipping policy - increasing transparency, worker voice and accountability in how tips are handled.

How is this different from the previous legislation?

The Employment (Allocation of Tips) Act 2023 came into effect on 1 October 2024. This makes it mandatory for all tips, gratuities and service charges that employers have “control or significant influence” over to be passed on to workers in full.

Where qualifying tips, gratuities and service charges are paid at (or are attributable to) an employer's place of business on "more than an occasional and exceptional basis", the employer must have a written policy on how it deals with tips. Meanwhile, an accompanying statutory Code of Practice offers additional guidance about fair and transparent distribution of tips and encourages (but does not mandate) consultation with workers.

The Act strengthens the law on tipping to make it mandatory for employers, when developing their tipping policies, to consult with workers at the place of business.

The clause states that this consultation should take place with recognised trade union representatives or other elected representatives where possible, but, if absent, directly with the workers affected.

The clause also mandates that employers review their policy on tipping at least once every three years. Employers will be required to make an anonymised summary of the views expressed in the consultation available to all workers of the employer at the place of business where the policy applies.

These measures will be enforced via the employment tribunal system. If an employer fails to consult properly with their workers, the workers will be able to present a complaint to an employment tribunal. A tribunal will be able to order an employer to compensate workers by up to £5,000 for financial loss sustained by the worker and attributable to the employer's failure.

When will these changes come into force?

Measure

Tightening tipping law

Commencement

October 2026

What further detail will be consulted on and when?

Consultation on tightening tipping law measure will take place in early 2026.

Key Stats

It is estimated that the current Act will ensure workers receive around £200 million worth of tips each year that was previously retained by employers.¹ As the intention of the clause is to enhance worker participation in the distribution of tips, the new measure could particularly benefit groups of workers who have less voice in the workplace in the 'business as usual' scenario.

Common Questions

What does this mean in practice?

- Employers will be legally required to consult with their workers when developing their policy on tipping. This *must* represent a genuine consultation - not simply a paper exercise - something which will be ensured by the new right for workers to view a summary of the views expressed within it.
- This will mean that employers will be legally required to directly involve employees in the planning of how their tips will be allocated. We will be launching a consultation seeking views from employers, employees and other stakeholders on these new requirements, and will welcome feedback during the consultation of how the current law and guidance are operating.

The Government has only recently changed the law on tipping. Why are you adding another burden for businesses/causing confusion by changing the law again?

- The Employment (Allocation of Tips) Act 2023, which was granted Royal Assent in May 2023 and came fully into effect on 01 October 2024, ensures that all tips, gratuities and service charges are passed to workers.
- However, whilst the Act requires employers to use a fair, clear and reasonable set of factors to decide upon the allocation of tips to employees, the accompanying Code of Practice only *encourages* consultation with workers in deciding on this allocation.
- The Government has been clear in its commitment to going further, by making it mandatory for employers to consult with workers in developing (or updating) their tipping policies, including how tips are allocated. The benefit will be to support worker participation in the distribution of tips they have earned.
- Once the Employment Rights Bill has been approved by Parliament, the Department will be carrying out a consultation with stakeholders on updating the existing statutory Code of Practice.
- We recognise that the existing measures, which came into effect in October 2024, do contain important protections for workers. It would have been wrong to delay these new rights for workers from coming into effect while the new measures progress through the parliamentary and consultation stages.

¹ - [Impact assessment: strengthen existing tipping law](#)