

Seminars & Workshops

Agency Workers Regulations: Learn how to comply or adopt alternative strategies

Learn how to: 1) assess the impact and cost of complying; 2) evaluate the pros and cons of alternatives; and 3) implement your action plan. £149 per person (+ VAT) for the half day course, and a 3 for 2 discount.

<http://www.pinsentmasons.com/PDF/RespondingAgencyWorkers.pdf>

Employment Tribunals: How you can influence the outcome, settle, or defend (Last chance to book)

There were 220,000 employment tribunal claims last year - and we always hear 'next time would be handled differently'. Book onto our workshop for £249 (plus VAT) - far less than your tribunal, especially with your 3 for 2 discount. You'll learn how to: 1) Influence and predict outcomes, 2) Develop proactive tactics, 3) Handle a claim internally or instruct lawyers, and much more.

<http://www.pinsentmasons.com/PDF/HandlingTribunalClaims.pdf>

MiFID: Making sense of the proposals

On 20 October 2011 the European Commission published its legislative proposal to revise the Markets in Financial Services Directive (MiFID). Pinsent Masons will hold a seminar on Friday 25 November 2011 to explain what the proposal could mean for firms. The seminar will be held at our office in Crown Place from 8.45- 9.30am. Breakfast will be available from 8:15am. To book, click here: <mailto:lauren.taylor@pinsentmasons.com>.

NEC3 – Payment and financial entitlement matters (Breakfast briefing)

This briefing looks at the risks and opportunities within the NEC construction contract forms and which relate to the recovery of money.

<http://www.pinsentmasons.com/PDF/PCBreakfastBriefingInvite1011.pdf>

Briefings, comments & Publications

HR Network weekly briefing: 4 November

This week's edition includes: 1) Leaked Government report calls for employers to be able to dismiss unproductive workers; 2) Government plans to introduce "protected conversations" between employers and employees; 3) Government may resort to legal action to prevent national strike; and 4) Employers must allow sick workers to carry over the full 5.6 weeks, a tribunal rules.

<http://www.pinsentmasons.com/en/media/hr-briefings/2011/november/hr-briefing---4-november-2011/>

Local Government law update: Issue 151

News, articles, press releases and official documents relating to local government.

<http://www.pinsentmasons.com/pdf/LocalGovUpdateIssue151.pdf>

Making pensions easier

Monthly summary of the most important legal issues affecting pension schemes.

<http://www.pinsentmasons.com/PDF/MakingPensionsEasier1111.pdf>

VAT and student accommodation – traps for the unwary

An article by a member of the Pinsent Masons tax team published in The Tax Journal which looks at VAT and university student accommodation.

<http://www.pinsentmasons.com/PDF/VATFocusStudentAccommodation.pdf>

Weekly housing news: Issue 223

News, articles, press releases and official documents relating to housing, housing associations and social housing developments.

<http://www.pinsentmasons.com/pdf/HousingNewsIssue223.pdf>

News

Appeal over legality of Digital Economy Act could be successful, judge says

BT and TalkTalk have a "real prospect of success" in arguing that the UK's Digital Economy Act (DEA) violates EU laws on liability for communications made over the internet, a UK judge has said.

<http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2011/october/appeal-over-legality-of-digital-economy-act-could-be-successful-judge-says/>

Banks should check customers' entitlement to packaged account insurance, FSA says

Banks will have to check customers are entitled to claim on any insurance cover bundled with a 'packaged' account under new rules proposed by the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

<http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2011/october/banks-should-check-customers-entitlement-to-packaged-account-insurance-fsa-says/>

'Coast along' employees should lose right to unfair dismissal, leaked report says

Unproductive workers should lose their right to claim unfair dismissal, according to a leaked Government report.

<http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2011/october/leaked-report-on-unfair-dismissal-claims/>

HMRC confirms its guidance in relation to 'disguised remuneration' rules

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has published finalised guidance on the disguised remuneration rules in its Employment Income Manual. This contains some further clarifications to the draft guidance produced in August along with additional examples of how HMRC intends to apply the rules. The new material is helpful in indicating HMRC's approach on certain points, but there remain some areas of uncertainty for companies using employee trusts in the operation of their share plans. These companies should review arrangements if they have not already done so, as in certain circumstances changes may be required to avoid unanticipated PAYE and NIC charges.

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/emp-income-third-parties.htm>

LIBOR antitrust claims should be addressed, expert says

Allegations that the daily reference rate used by banks for calculating interest rates was 'fixed' should be addressed "promptly and with certainty", an expert has said.

<http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2011/november/libor-antitrust-claims-should-be-addressed-expert-says/>

Membership of occupational pension schemes 'at lowest level since the 1950s'

The number of workers currently paying into occupational pension schemes fell further in 2010, according to official figures.

<http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2011/october/membership-of-occupational-pension-schemes-at-lowest-level-since-the-1950s/>

OFT proposes increasing maximum fine for anti-competitive behaviour

Companies that act anti-competitively should face greater maximum fines, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has said.

<http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2011/october/oft-proposes-increasing-maximum-fine-for-anti-competitive-behaviour/>

Overhaul of telecoms v landowners rules can only improve a bad law, says expert

OPINION: Progress comes at a cost, as landowners are finding. The information we increasingly find at our fingertips has to travel somehow, and the rules governing networks' access to land have been confusing, unco-ordinated and counterproductive.

<http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2011/october/overhaul-of-telecoms-v-landowners-rules-can-only-improve-a-bad-law-says-expert/>

Pakistani cricketers guilty of anti-corruption and gambling conspiracy

Three Pakistani cricketers have become the first sportspersons to be convicted of conspiring to cheating under the UK's Gambling Act, the Gambling Commission has said.

<http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2011/november/pakistani-cricketers-guilty-of-anti-corruption-and-gambling-conspiracy/>

Parties forced to take out loans at high interest to pay their legal costs can recover that interest, judge says

Parties in complex court cases who are forced to take out loans at a high rate of interest to pay their legal costs can recover the full amount of that interest from the other party in certain circumstances, a court has said.

<http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2011/november/parties-forced-to-take-out-loans-at-high-interest-to-pay-their-legal-costs-can-recover-that-interest-judge-says/>

Payment protection product guidance proposed by regulators

Two UK regulators have joined forces to publish proposed new guidance on selling payment protection products that they hope will stop companies selling the products to ineligible consumers.

<http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2011/november/payment-protection-product-guidance-proposed-by-regulators/>

Personal data blaggers should go to jail, MPs say

People who 'blag' personal information through deception or sell it on without permission should face prison sentences, a committee of MPs has said.

<http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2011/october/personal-data-blaggers-should-go-to-jail-mps-say/>

Police must justify use of communication interception technology, lawyer says

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has bought technology that will allow it to intercept and shut-off communications without the help of telecoms companies, according to media reports.

<http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2011/november/police-must-justify-use-of-communication-interception-technology-lawyer-says/>

Premium rate service regulator to help combat pirated music sales

The UK's regulator of premium rate services (PRS) will pass on details of copyright infringing websites to service providers under a new "proactive" arrangement with police and music industry representatives, it has announced.

<http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2011/november/premium-rate-service-regulator-to-help-combat-pirated-music-sales/>

Squatting in residential buildings to become a criminal offence

Squatting in residential buildings is to become a criminal offence for the first time, the Government has announced.

<http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2011/november/squatting-in-residential-buildings-to-become-a-criminal-offence/>

YouTube asked to remove 135 videos over 'national security issues', Google says

The UK Government asked Google to remove 135 YouTube videos for national security reasons in the first half of this year, the internet search giant has said.

<http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2011/october/youtube-asked-to-remove-135-videos-over-national-security-issues-google-says/>