



Number 27 of 2007

**PROTECTION OF EMPLOYMENT (EXCEPTIONAL COLLECTIVE REDUNDANCIES AND
RELATED MATTERS) ACT 2007**

REVISED

Updated to 1 September 2017

This Revised Act is an administrative consolidation of the *Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007*. It is prepared by the Law Reform Commission in accordance with its function under the *Law Reform Commission Act 1975* (3/1975) to keep the law under review and to undertake revision and consolidation of statute law.

All Acts up to and including *National Shared Services Office Act 2017* (26/2017), enacted 26 July 2017, and all statutory instruments up to and including *Education Support Centres (Appointment and Secondment of Directors) Regulations 2017* (S.I. No. 394 of 2017), made 1 September 2017, were considered in the preparation of this Revised Act.

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PROTECTION OF EMPLOYMENT (EXCEPTIONAL COLLECTIVE REDUNDANCIES AND RELATED MATTERS) ACT 2007

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Introduction

This revision presents the text of the Act as it has been amended since enactment, and preserves the format in which it was passed.

Related legislation

Terms of Employment (Information) Acts 1994 to 2014: this Act is one of a group of Acts included in this collective citation, to be construed together as one (*Local Government Reform Act 2014* (1/2014), s. 1(21)). The Acts in the group are:

- *Terms of Employment (Information) Act 1994*
- *Protection of Employees (Part-Time Work) Act 2001* (45/2001), in so far as it relates to the *Terms of Employment (Information) Act 1994* (5/1994)
- *Industrial Relations (Amendment) Act 2012* (32/2012), s. 18
- *Local Government Reform Act 2014* (1/2014), s. 1(21), and the amendments to the *Terms of Employment (Information) Act 1994* (5/1994) provided for in s. 5(6) and sch. 2 part 6 (Note: the reference to s. 5(6) appears to be intended to refer to s. 5(8))

Employment Equality Acts 1998 to 2015: this Act is one of a group of Acts included in this collective citation, to be construed together as one (*Equality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2015*, s. 16(3)). The Acts in the group are:

- *Employment Equality Act 1998* (21/1998)
- *Equality Act 2004* (24/2004), Part 2
- *Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007* (27/2007), insofar as it relates to the *Employment Equality Acts 1998 and 2004*
- *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008* (14/2008), Part 16
- *Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011* (23/2011), ss. 18 to 26
- *Equality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2015* (43/2015), ss. 3 to 11

Protection of Employment Acts 1977 to 2014: this Act is one of a group of Acts included in this collective citation, to be construed together as one, insofar as they relate to it (*Local Government Reform Act 2014* (1/2014), s. 1(17)). The Acts in the group are:

- *Protection of Employment Act 1977* (7/1977)
- *Protection of Employees (Part-Time Work) Act 2001* (45/2001), insofar as it applies to the *Protection of Employment Act 1977* (7/1977)

- *Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007 (27/2007)*, insofar as it applies to the *Protection of Employment Act 1977 (7/1977)*
- *Local Government Reform Act 2014 (1/2014)*, s. 1(17) and the amendments to the *Protection of Employees (Part-Time Work) Act 2001 (45/2001)* and the *Protection of Employment Act 1977 (7/1977)* provided for in s. 5(6) and sch. 2 part 6 (Note: the reference to s. 5(6) appears to be intended to refer to s. 5(8))

Redundancy Payments Acts 1967 to 2014: this Act is one of a group of Acts included in this collective citation, to be construed together as one (*Local Government Reform Act 2014 (1/2014)*, s. 1(19)). The Acts in the group are:

- *Redundancy Payments Act 1967 (21/1967)*
- *Redundancy Payments Act 1971 (20/1971)*
- *Redundancy Payments Act 1973 (11/1973)*
- *Redundancy Payments Act 1979 (7/1979)*
- *Protection of Employees (Employer's Insolvency) Act 1984 (21/1984)*, s. 12
- *Social Welfare Act 1990 (5/1990)*, ss. 26, 27 and 29
- *Protection of Employees (Part-Time Work) Act 2001 (45/2001)*, insofar as it relates to the *Redundancy Payments Acts 1967 to 1990*
- *Redundancy Payments Act 2003 (14/2003)*
- *Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007 (27/2007)*, insofar as it relates to *Redundancy Payments Acts 1967 to 2003*
- *Social Welfare Act 2011 (37/2011)*, Part 3
- *Social Welfare Act 2012 (43/2012)*, Part 3
- *Local Government Reform Act 2014 (1/2014)*, s. 1(19) and the amendment to the *Redundancy Payments Act 1967 (21/1967)* provided for in s. 5(6) and sch. 2 part 6 (Note: the reference to s. 5(6) appears to be intended to refer to s. 5(8)).

Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977 to 2015: this Act is one of a group of Acts included in this collective citation, to be construed together as one (*Industrial Relations (Amendment) Act 2015 (27/2015)*, s. 1(4)). The Acts in the group are:

- *Unfair Dismissals Act 1977 (10/1977)*
- *Unfair Dismissals (Amendment) Act 1993 (22/1993)*
- *Protection of Employees (Part-Time Work) Act 2001 (45/2001)*, insofar as it relates to the *Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977 to 1993*
- *Civil Service Regulation (Amendment) Act 2005 (18/2005)*, Part 6
- *Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007 (27/2007)*, insofar as it relates to the *Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977 to 2005*
- *Industrial Relations (Amendment) Act 2015 (27/2015)*, s. 39

Act previously included in the group but now repealed:

- *Worker Protection (Regular Part-Time Employees) Act 1991 (5/1991)*

Annotations

This Revised Act is annotated and includes textual and non-textual amendments, statutory instruments made pursuant to the Act and previous affecting provisions.

An explanation of how to read annotations is available at www.lawreform.ie/annotations

Material not updated in this revision

Where other legislation is amended by this Act, those amendments may have been superseded by other amendments in other legislation, or the amended legislation may have been repealed or revoked. This information is not represented in this revision but will be reflected in a revision of the amended legislation if one is available.

Where legislation or a fragment of legislation is referred to in annotations, changes to this legislation or fragment may not be reflected in this revision but will be reflected in a revision of the legislation referred to if one is available.

A list of legislative changes to any Act, and to statutory instruments from 1994, may be found linked from the page of the Act or statutory instrument at www.irishstatutebook.ie.

Acts which affect or previously affected this revision

- *Industrial Relations (Amendment) Act 2015* (27/2015)
- *Workplace Relations Act 2015* (16/2015)
- *Protected Disclosures Act 2014* (14/2014)
- *Local Government Reform Act 2014* (1/2014)
- *Central Bank (Supervision and Enforcement) Act 2013* (26/2013)
- *Protection of Employees (Temporary Agency Work) Act 2012* (13/2012)
- *Property Services (Regulation) Act 2011* (40/2011)
- *Central Bank and Credit Institutions (Resolution) Act 2011* (27/2011)
- *Criminal Justice Act 2011* (22/2011)
- *Credit Institutions (Stabilisation) Act 2010* (36/2010)
- *Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act 2010* (33/2010)
- *Inland Fisheries Act 2010* (10/2010)
- *Labour Services (Amendment) Act 2009* (38/2009)
- *National Asset Management Agency Act 2009* (34/2009)
- *Charities Act 2009* (6/2009)
- *Anglo Irish Bank Corporation Act 2009* (1/2009)
- *Chemicals Act 2008* (13/2008)
- *Health Act 2007* (23/2007)
- *Consumer Protection Act 2007* (19/2007)
- *Employment Permits Act 2006* (16/2006)
- *Parental Leave (Amendment) Act 2006* (13/2006)
- *Employees (Provision of Information and Consultation) Act 2006* (9/2006)
- *Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005* (10/2005)
- *Equality Act 2004* (24/2004)
- *Health Act 2004* (42/2004)
- *Protection of Employees (Fixed-Term Work) Act 2003* (29/2003)
- *Competition Act 2002* (14/2002)
- *Protection of Employees (Part-Time Work) Act 2001* (45/2001)
- *Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act 2001* (27/2001)
- *Carer's Leave Act 2001* (19/2001)
- *Protections For Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998* (49/1998)
- *Parental Leave Act 1998* (30/1998)
- *Employment Equality Act 1998* (21/1998)
- *Organisation of Working Time Act 1997* (20/1997)
- *Labour Services Act 1987* (15/1987)

All Acts up to and including *National Shared Services Office Act 2017* (26/2017), enacted 26 July 2017, were considered in the preparation of this revision.

Statutory instruments which affect or previously affected this revision

- *Labour Affairs and Labour Law (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions) Order 2017* (S.I. No. 361 of 2017)
- *Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007 (Duration of Part 2) Order 2016* (S.I. No. 224 of 2016)
- *Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007 (Duration of Part 2) Order 2013* (S.I. No. 153 of 2013)
- *Enterprise, Trade and Innovation (Alteration of Name of Department and Title of Minister) Order 2011* (S.I. No. 245 of 2011)
- *Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007 (Duration of Part 2) Order 2010* (S.I. No. 197 of 2010)
- *Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Alteration of Name of Department and Title of Minister) Order 2010* (S.I. No. 185 of 2010)
- *European Communities (Cross-Border Mergers) Regulations 2008* (S.I. No. 157 of 2008)

- *European Communities (European Aviation Safety Agency) (Amendment) Regulations 2008* (S.I. No. 95 of 2008)
- *European Communities (Occurrence Reporting in Civil Aviation) Regulations 2007* (S.I. No. 285 of 2007)
- *European Communities (European Cooperative Society) (Employee Involvement) Regulations 2007* (S.I. No. 259 of 2007)
- *European Communities (European Public Limited-Liability Company) (Employee Involvement) Regulations 2006* (S.I. No. 623 of 2006)
- *European Communities (European Aviation Safety Agency) Regulations 2003* (S.I. No. 469 of 2003)
- *European Communities (Protection of Employees on Transfer of Undertakings) Regulations 2003* (S.I. No. 131 of 2003)

All statutory instruments up to and including *Education Support Centres (Appointment and Secondment of Directors) Regulations 2017* (S.I. No. 394 of 2017), made 1 September 2017, were considered in the preparation of this revision.



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ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PART 1

PRELIMINARY AND GENERAL

Section

1. Short title, construction and collective citation.
2. Definitions.
3. Duration of effect of *Part 2* and related matters.

PART 2

EXCEPTIONAL COLLECTIVE REDUNDANCIES

4. What constitutes exceptional collective redundancies.
5. Redundancy Panel.
6. Reference to Redundancy Panel.
7. Request by Minister for opinion of Labour Court.
8. Hearings, and giving of opinions, by Labour Court.
9. Effect of opinion.
10. Extension of time during which dismissal may not take place.

PART 3

AMENDMENTS OF THE PROTECTION OF EMPLOYMENT ACT 1977

11. Amendment of section 2 (interpretation) of the Protection of Employment Act 1977.
12. Amendment of section 9 (obligation on employer to consult employees' representatives) of the Protection of Employment Act 1977.

[No. 27.] *Protection of Employment (Exceptional [2007.]
Collective Redundancies and Related
Matters) Act 2007*

13. Further amendments (penalties) of the Protection of Employment Act 1977.

PART 4

AMENDMENTS OF THE REDUNDANCY PAYMENTS ACT 1967

- 14. Amendment of section 2 (interpretation) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967.
- 15. Amendment of section 4 (classes of persons to which this Act applies) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967.
- 16. Amendment of section 7 (general right to redundancy payment) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967.
- 17. Amendment of section 38 (decisions by deciding officers) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967.
- 18. Amendment of section 39 (Redundancy Appeals Tribunal and appeals and references thereto) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967.
- 19. Further amendments (penalties) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967.

PART 5

AMENDMENTS OF THE REDUNDANCY PAYMENTS ACT 1971

- 20. Repeal of section 3 (provisions relating to persons reaching qualifying age for old age pension) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1971.
- 21. Amendment of section 16 (offences relating to payments under Principal Act) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1971.

PART 6

AMENDMENTS OF THE REDUNDANCY PAYMENTS ACT 1979

- 22. Amendment of section 1 (definitions) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1979.
- 23. Repeal of section 5 (provisions relating to persons reaching qualifying age for old age pension) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1979.

PART 7

AMENDMENTS OF THE UNFAIR DISMISSALS ACT 1977

- 24. Amendment of section 1 (definitions) of the Unfair Dismissals Act 1977.
- 25. Amendment of section 2 (exclusions) of the Unfair Dismissals Act 1977.
- 26. Amendment of section 5 (dismissal by way of lock-out or for taking part in strike) of the Unfair Dismissals Act 1977.

PART 8

AMENDMENTS OF THE EMPLOYMENT EQUALITY ACT 1998

- 27. Amendment of section 17 (compliance with statutory requirements, etc.) of the Employment Equality Act 1998.

ACTS REFERRED TO

Employment Equality Act 1998

1998, No. 21

Employment Equality Acts 1998 and 2004

**[No. 27.] Protection of Employment (Exceptional [2007.]
Collective Redundancies and Related
Matters) Act 2007**

Equality Act 2004	2004, No. 24
European Parliament Elections Act 1997	1997, No. 2
Industrial Relations Act 1946	1946, No. 26
National Minimum Wage Act 2000	2000, No. 5
Protection of Employees (Part-Time Work) Act 2001	2001, No. 45
Protection of Employment Act 1977	1977, No. 7
Protection of Young Persons (Employment) Act 1996	1996, No. 16
Redundancy Payments Act 1967	1967, No. 21
Redundancy Payments Act 1971	1971, No. 20
Redundancy Payments Act 1979	1979, No. 7
Redundancy Payments Acts 1967 to 2003	
Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005	2005, No. 26
Taxes Consolidation Act 1997	1997, No. 39
Unfair Dismissals Act 1977	1977, No. 10
Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977 to 2005	
Unfair Dismissals (Amendment) Act 1993	1993, No. 22

[No. 27.] *Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007* [2007.]



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AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION, CONSEQUENT ON THE CONCLUSION OF THE TEN-YEAR FRAMEWORK SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT 2006-2015 KNOWN AS “TOWARDS 2016”, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REDUNDANCY PANEL AND THE REFERENCE TO IT OF CERTAIN PROPOSED COLLECTIVE REDUNDANCIES AND FOR RELATED ACTION BY THE MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT, INCLUDING THE OBTAINING FROM THE LABOUR COURT OF OPINIONS ON THE NATURE OF PROPOSED COLLECTIVE REDUNDANCIES; TO REMOVE THE UPPER AGE LIMIT FOR ENTITLEMENT TO REDUNDANCY PAYMENTS; TO MAKE CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS OF THE PROTECTION OF EMPLOYMENT ACT 1977, THE REDUNDANCY PAYMENTS ACT 1967, THE REDUNDANCY PAYMENTS ACT 1971, THE REDUNDANCY PAYMENTS ACT 1979, THE UNFAIR DISMISSALS ACT 1977 AND THE EMPLOYMENT EQUALITY ACT 1998; AND TO MAKE FURTHER AMENDMENTS OF THOSE ACTS TO UPDATE PENALTIES AND FOR PURPOSES OF STATUTE-LAW REVISION.

[8th May, 2007]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE OIREACHTAS AS FOLLOWS:

Annotations

Modifications (not altering text):

- C1** Functions transferred and “Minister for” and “Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation” construed (1.09.2017) by *Labour Affairs and Labour Law (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions) Order 2017* (S.I. No. 361 of 2017), arts. 2, 3, 6-8, in effect as per art. 1(2), subject to transitional provisions in arts. 4, 5. Note that the name of the “Minister for” and “Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment” was changed:
- to the Minister for and Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation (2.05.2010) by *Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Alteration of Name of Department and Title of Minister) Order 2010* (S.I. No. 185 of 2010); and
 - to the Minister for and Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (2.06.2011) by *Enterprise, Trade and Innovation (Alteration of Name of Department and Title of Minister) Order 2011* (S.I. No. 245 of 2011).

...

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2. (1) The administration and business in connection with the exercise, performance or execution of any functions transferred by Article 3 are transferred to the Department of Social Protection.

(2) References to the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation contained in any Act or any instrument made under such Act and relating to any administration and business transferred by paragraph (1) shall, on and after the commencement of this Order, be construed as references to the Department of Social Protection.

3. (1) The functions vested in the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation—

(a) by or under the Acts specified in Part 1 of the Schedule and the provisions of the Acts specified in Part 2 of the Schedule, and

(b) under the Regulations specified in Part 3 of the Schedule,

are transferred to the Minister for Social Protection.

(2) References to the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation contained in any Act or instrument made under such Act and relating to any functions transferred by this Article shall, on and after the commencement of this Order, be construed as references to the Minister for Social Protection.

...

SCHEDULE

PART 1

ACTS OF THE OIREACHTAS

...

Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007 (No. 27 of 2007)

...

- C2** The application of the collectively cited *Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977 to 2007* is restricted in certain circumstances. The following is one version of the wording used but there are several:

Power of special manager to remove officers, employees and others

70.— ...

(3) Nothing in subsection (1) or (2) deprives a person of any right to claim compensation or damages from that credit institution for the loss of his or her office or appointment. However—

(a) a court, tribunal or rights commissioner may not grant any remedy that would have the effect of preventing or restraining the special manager from exercising the special manager's powers under this section, and

(b) a court, tribunal or rights commissioner may not make an order under the *Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977 to 2007* for the reinstatement or re-engagement of such a person.

...

Employees are restricted from availing of certain remedies by:

- (28.10.2011) by *Central Bank and Credit Institutions (Resolution) Act 2011* (27/2011) s. 70(3)(b), S.I. No. 548 of 2011.
- (21.12.2010) by *Credit Institutions (Stabilisation) Act 2010* (36/2010) ss. 23(3)(b) and 44(6)(b), S.I. No. 623 of 2010.
- (21.01.2009) by *Anglo Irish Bank Corporation Act 2009* (1/2009), s. 19(5)(b), commenced on enactment.

- C3** The application of the collectively cited *Unfair Dismissals Acts* is potentially restricted where there is an alternative remedy in the provisions listed below. The following is one version of the wording used, but there are variations:

(3) If the penalisation of an employee, in contravention of subsection (1), constitutes a dismissal of the employee (within the meaning of the *Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977 to 2007*), relief may not

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be granted to the employee in respect of that penalisation both under Schedule 4 of this Act and under the Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977 to 2007.

...

Employees are restricted to availing of one of alternative remedies provided by the *Unfair Dismissals Acts* and other legislation:

- (1.08.2015) by *Industrial Relations (Amendment) Act 2015* (27/2015), s. 20(4), S.I. No. 329 of 2015.
- (15.07.2014) by *Protected Disclosures Act 2014* (14/2014), s. 13(2), S.I. No. 327 of 2014.
- (16.10.2014) by *Charities Act 2009* (6/2009), s. 62(3), S.I. No. 457 of 2014.
- (1.08.2012) by *Central Bank (Supervision and Enforcement) Act 2013* (26/2013), s. 41(5), S.I. No. 287 of 2013.
- (6.07.2012) by *Property Services (Regulation) Act 2011* (40/2011), s. 67(5) & sch. 4, para. 8(b), commenced on enactment.
- (16.05.2012) by *Protection of Employees (Temporary Agency Work) Act 2012* (13/2012), ss. 23(2), 24(2), commenced on enactment.
- (28.10.2011) by *Central Bank and Credit Institutions (Resolution) Act 2011* (27/2011), s. 70(3)(b) and (b), S.I. No. 548 of 2011.
- (9.08.2011) by *Criminal Justice Act 2011* (22/2011), s. 20(4)(a) and (b), S.I. No. 411 of 2011.
- (21.12.2010) by *Credit Institutions (Stabilisation) Act 2010* (36/2010), ss. 23(3)(b) and 44(6)(b), S.I. No. 623 of 2010.
- by *Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act 2001* (27/2001), s. 8A(5) and sch. 1 para. 3(8), as inserted (15.12.2010) by *Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act 2010* (33/2010), ss. 4 and 6, commenced on enactment.
- (1.06.2010) by *Inland Fisheries Act 2010* (10/2010), s. 38(3), commenced on enactment.
- (21.12.2009) by *National Asset Management Agency Act 2009* (34/2009), s. 223(5), S.I. No. 545 of 2009.
- by *Health Act 2004* (42/2004), s. 55M(4), as inserted (1.03.2009) by *Health Act 2007* (23/2007), s. 103(1), S.I. No. 27 of 2009.
- (21.01.2009) by *Anglo Irish Bank Corporation Act 2009* (1/2009), s. 19(5)(b), commenced on enactment.
- (15.07.2008) by *Chemicals Act 2008* (13/2008), s. 26(3), S.I. No. 273 of 2008.
- (27.05.2008) by *European Communities (Cross-Border Mergers) Regulations 2008* (S.I. No. 157 of 2008), reg. 39(9).
- by *European Communities (European Aviation Safety Agency) Regulations 2003* (S.I. No. 469 of 2003), reg. 10(4), as inserted (8.04.2008) by *European Communities (European Aviation Safety Agency) (Amendment) Regulations 2008* (S.I. No. 95 of 2008), reg. 3(d).
- (13.06.2007) by *European Communities (Occurrence Reporting in Civil Aviation) Regulations 2007* (S.I. No. 285 of 2007), reg. 9(7).
- (29.05.2007) by *European Communities (European Cooperative Society) (Employee Involvement) Regulations 2007* (S.I. No. 259 of 2007), reg. 20(8).
- (1.05.2007) by *Consumer Protection Act 2007* (19/2007), s. 87(4) and sch. 6, para. 4(2), S.I. No. 178 of 2007.
- (1.01.2007) by *Employment Permits Act 2006* (16/2006), s. 26(5), S.I. No. 682 of 2006.
- (14.12.2006) by *European Communities (European Public Limited-Liability Company) (Employee Involvement) Regulations 2006* (S.I. No. 623 of 2006), reg. 19(8).
- (24.07.2006) by *Employees (Provision of Information and Consultation) Act 2006* (9/2006), s. 13(7), S.I. No. 382 of 2006.

- by *Parental Leave Act 1998* (30/1998), s. 16A(3) as inserted (18.05.2006) by *Parental Leave (Amendment) Act 2006* (13/2006), s. 11, commenced on enactment.
- (1.09.2005) by *Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005* (10/2005), s. 27(5), S.I. No. 328 of 2005.
- by *Employment Equality Act 1998* (21/1998), s. 101(2)(b), as substituted (18.07.2004) by *Equality Act 2004* (24/2004), s. 46 and sch. para. 30, commenced on enactment.
- (14.07.2003) by *Protection of Employees (Fixed-Term Work) Act 2003* (29/2003), s. 18(1), commenced on enactment.
- (11.04.2003) by *European Communities (Protection of Employees on Transfer of Undertakings) Regulations 2003* (S.I. No. 131 of 2003), reg. 5(4).
- (1.07.2002) by *Competition Act 2002* (14/2002), s. 50(3) and sch. 3, para. 3, S.I. No. 199 of 2002.
- (20.12.2001) by *Protection of Employees (Part-Time Work) Act 2001* (45/2001), s. 15(3), S.I. No. 636 of 2001.
- (2.07.2001) by *Carer's Leave Act 2001* (19/2001), s. 16(3), commenced on enactment.
- (18.10.1999) by *Employment Equality Act 1998* (21/1998), s. 101(4)(b), S.I. No. 320 of 1999.
- (23.01.1999) by *Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998* (49/1998), s. 4(3), commenced as per s. 7(2).
- (30.09.1997) by *Organisation of Working Time Act 1997* (20/1997), s. 26(2), S.I. No. 392 of 1997.

Editorial Notes:

- E1** Collectively cited *Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977 to 2007, Employment Equality Acts 1998 to 2011, Redundancy Payments Acts 1967 to 2014, Protection of Employment Acts 1977 to 2014 and Terms of Employment (Information) Acts 1994 to 2014* included in definitions of “employment enactment” and “relevant enactment” (1.08.2015) by *Workplace Relations Act 2015* (16/2015), s. 2 and sch. 1 part 1 items 14, 15, 18, 19 and 20, S.I. No. 338 of 2015, with the following effects:
- Authorised officers or inspectors under employment enactments deemed to be appointed under *Workplace Relations Act 2015* (16/2015), s. 26(2) and subject to termination under s. 26(4).
 - Powers of inspectors for purposes of relevant enactments defined in *Workplace Relations Act 2015* (16/2015), s. 27.
 - Workplace Relations Commission, an inspector or an adjudication officer authorised to disclose employer’s registered number or employee’s PPSN to enable Labour Court to perform functions under relevant enactments by *Workplace Relations Act 2015* (16/2015) s. 31(5).
 - Power of Workplace Relations Commission and official body to disclose information to each other concerning the commission of offence under relevant enactment provided by *Workplace Relations Act 2015* (16/2015), s. 32.
 - Power of Workplace Relations Commission and contracting authority to disclose information to each other concerning the commission of offence under employment enactment/ relevant enactment provided by *Workplace Relations Act 2015* (16/2015), s. 33.
 - Powers of Minister to prosecute under relevant enactments transferred to Workplace Relations Commission and references construed by *Workplace Relations Act 2015* (16/2015), s. 37.
 - Functions of EAT to hear claims under employment enactments transferred to Workplace Relations Commission and references to EAT construed by *Workplace Relations Act 2015* (16/2015) s. 66(1), (2), not commenced as of date of revision.
- E2** Previous affecting provision: application of collectively cited *Unfair Dismissals Act 2007* potentially restricted by *Labour Services Act 1987* (15/1987), s. 13B(3) as inserted (20.01.2010) by *Labour Services (Amendment) Act 2009* (38/2009), s. 7, S.I. No. 12 of 2010; 1987 Act repealed (26.10.2013) by *Further Education and Training Act 2013* (25/2013), s. 4, S.I. No. 400 of 2013.

PART 1

PRELIMINARY AND GENERAL

PT. 1 S. 1. [No. 27.] *Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007* [2007.]

Short title, construction and collective citation.

1.— (1) This Act may be cited as the Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007.

(2) The Protection of Employment Act 1977, together with the Protection of Employees (Part-Time Work) Act 2001 and this Act (insofar as they apply to the first-mentioned Act), shall be construed together as one and may be cited together as the Protection of Employment Acts 1977 to 2007.

(3) The Redundancy Payments Acts 1967 to 2003 and this Act (insofar as it relates to those Acts) shall be construed together as one and may be cited together as the Redundancy Payments Acts 1967 to 2007.

(4) The Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977 to 2005 and this Act (insofar as it relates to those Acts) shall be construed together as one and may be cited together as the Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977 to 2007.

(5) The Employment Equality Acts 1998 and 2004 and this Act (insofar as it relates to those Acts) shall be construed together as one and may be cited together as the Employment Equality Acts 1998 to 2007.

Definitions.

2.— In this Act—

“employee representatives” has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the Protection of Employment Act 1977;

“industrial action” means—

(a) a cessation of work by any number or body of workers acting in combination or a concerted refusal or a refusal under a common understanding of any number of workers to continue to work for their employer done as a means of compelling their employer, or to aid other workers in compelling their employer, to accept or not to accept terms or conditions of or affecting employment, or

(b) the closing of a place of employment, or the suspension of work, or the refusal by an employer to continue to employ any number of persons employed by that employer in consequence of a dispute, done with a view to compelling those persons, or to aid another employer in compelling persons employed by that other employer, to accept terms or conditions of or affecting employment;

“Minister” means the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment;

“Secretary General” means the Secretary General of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

Duration of effect of Part 2 and related matters.

3.— (1) Subject to this section, Part 2 has effect only for the period of 3 years from the commencement of this Act.

(2) The Minister may, by order made before the expiration of the period mentioned in subsection (1) or of any extension of that period under this subsection, extend that period or periods for a further period of 3 years if—

(a) both the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and the Irish Business and Employers Confederation have requested the extension; and

(b) the Minister is satisfied that the continued operation of Part 2 would be conducive to the continued orderly conduct of industrial relations.

(3) If—

(a) on any day, *Part 2* ceases to have effect in accordance with *subsection (1)*, and

(b) on that day, any action remains to be taken under that Part in relation to a redundancy proposal in respect of which action had commenced to be taken under that Part,

Part 2 continues in force to the extent necessary for completing the taking of that action, and any subsequent action provided for by that Part, in respect of that redundancy proposal and, for that purpose, the Redundancy Panel as constituted immediately before that day continues in existence for such time as is necessary for it to take any outstanding action in accordance with that Part.

Annotations

Editorial Notes:

- E3 Power pursuant to subs. (2) exercised (7.05.2016 to 7.05.2019) by *Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007 (Duration of Part 2) Order 2016* (S.I. No. 224 of 2016).
- E4 Previous affecting provision: power pursuant to subs. (2) exercised (7.05.2013 to 7.05.2016) by *Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007 (Duration of Part 2) Order 2013* (S.I. No. 153 of 2013); expired.
- E5 Previous affecting provision: power pursuant to subs. (2) exercised (7.05.2010 to 7.05.2013) by *Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007 (Duration of Part 2) Order 2010* (S.I. No. 197 of 2010); expired.

PART 2

EXCEPTIONAL COLLECTIVE REDUNDANCIES

Annotations

Modifications (not altering text):

- C4 Period for which of Part 2 shall have effect extended (7.05.2013 to 7.05.2016) by *Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007 (Duration of Part 2) Order 2013* (S.I. No. 153 of 2013), reg. 2.

...

2. The period mentioned in subsection (1) of section 3 of the *Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007* (No. 27 of 2007), as extended by the *Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007 (Duration of Part 2) Order 2010* (S.I. No. 197 of 2010), is extended by a further period of 3 years commencing on the expiration of the period provided for by *Statutory Instrument No. 197 of 2010*.

...

Editorial Notes:

- E6 Previous affecting provision: period for which Part 2 shall have effect extended (7.05.2010 to 7.05.2013) by *Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007 (Duration of Part 2) Order 2010* (S.I. No. 197 of 2010), reg. 2; expired.

What constitutes exceptional collective redundancies.

4.— (1) Subject to *subsection (2)*, dismissals proposed by an employer together constitute exceptional collective redundancies for the purposes of this Part if, were they to take effect, they would be dismissals of the kind referred to in section 7(2A) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967 (inserted by *section 16*).

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, it is declared that this Part does not apply to—

- (a) the employment of agency workers for temporary or recurring business needs, or
- (b) the use of outsourcing, contracting-out or other forms of business restructuring,

in circumstances other than those referred to in section 7(2A) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967.

Redundancy Panel.

5.— (1) For the purposes of this Part, there is established a Redundancy Panel.

(2) The Redundancy Panel consists of the following members:

- (a) a Chairman appointed, in writing, by the F1[Minister];
- (b) a member appointed, in writing, by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions;
- (c) a member appointed, in writing, by the Irish Business and Employers Confederation.

(3) Each member of the Redundancy Panel shall have a deputy appointed, in writing, by the F2[person] by which that member was appointed, who shall act as a member of the panel on any occasion when that member is unable to attend a meeting of the panel, and, in *subsections (4) to (9)*, a reference to a member includes a reference to a deputy of a member.

(4) Subject to *subsections (5) to (10)*, a member—

- (a) holds office for such period, not exceeding 3 years, as is specified in the relevant instrument of appointment, and
- (b) is eligible for re-appointment.

(5) A member may resign by letter addressed to the relevant appointing authority, and the resignation shall take effect on the date of receipt of the letter.

(6) A member shall, unless he or she sooner dies, resigns or otherwise ceases to be a member, hold office until the expiration of his or her term of office.

(7) A person is not eligible to be appointed, or to continue to hold office, as a member of the Redundancy Panel if that person—

- (a) is, or accepts nomination as, a member of Seanad Éireann,
- (b) is, or is nominated as, a candidate for election as a member of either House of the Oireachtas or to be a member of the European Parliament,
- (c) is regarded, under Part XIII of the Second Schedule to the European Parliament Elections Act 1997, as having been elected to that Parliament, or

F3[(d) is or becomes a member of a local authority within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014),]

and a member who ceases, under this subsection, to be eligible to continue to hold office as a member shall thereupon cease to be a member of the Redundancy Panel.

(8) The Government may, for stated reasons, at any time remove a member from office for misbehaviour or where they consider that—

- (a) the member has become incapable through ill health of effectively performing the functions of a member, or
- (b) the member's removal is necessary for the effective performance by the Redundancy Panel of its functions.

(9) A member shall cease to be a member on—

- (a) being adjudicated bankrupt,
- (b) making a composition or arrangement with creditors,
- (c) being sentenced to imprisonment on conviction on indictment, or
- (d) ceasing to be ordinarily resident in the State.

(10) Whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of a member of the Redundancy Panel, the vacancy shall be filled, for the unexpired portion of the member's term of office, by the member's deputy, and the relevant appointing F4[person] shall appoint a new deputy.

(11) The Redundancy Panel shall act by majority decision.

(12) Subject to *subsection (11)*, the practice and procedure of the Redundancy Panel shall be as determined by it.

(13) The Secretary General shall arrange for the provision to the Redundancy Panel of all secretarial and other services necessary for its efficient operation.

(14) A member of the Redundancy Panel shall be paid such remuneration (if any) as is determined by the Minister with the consent of the Minister for Finance.

Annotations

Amendments:

- F1** Substituted (1.10.2015) by *Workplace Relations Act 2015* (16/2015), s. 85(a), S.I. No. 410 of 2015.
- F2** Substituted (1.10.2015) by *Workplace Relations Act 2015* (16/2015), s. 85(b), S.I. No. 410 of 2015.
- F3** Substituted (1.06.2014) by *Local Government Reform Act 2014* (1/2014), s. 5(8) and sch. 2, part 6, S.I. No. 214 of 2014.
- F4** Substituted (1.10.2015) by *Workplace Relations Act 2015* (16/2015), s. 85(c), S.I. No. 410 of 2015.

Reference to Redundancy Panel.

6.— (1) At any time during the period of 30 days referred to in section 9 or 12 of the Protection of Employment Act 1977 (as the case requires), a proposal to create collective redundancies may be referred to the Redundancy Panel—

- (a) by employee representatives acting with the approval of the majority of those whom they represent who are affected by the redundancy proposal, or
- (b) by the employer concerned,

by notice in writing addressed to the Chairman of the Panel in the care of the Secretary General and sent or delivered to the Secretary General at the principal office of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

(2) The Secretary General shall arrange for a reference under *subsection (1)* to be forwarded without delay to the Chairman of the Redundancy Panel, and the Panel shall—

(a) within 1 working day of receipt by the Chairman of the reference—

(i) inform the Minister of the fact, and

(ii) invite affected parties to make submissions to it in relation to the proposal,

and

(b) within 7 working days of receipt by the Chairman of the reference—

(i) give notice in writing to the Minister that either requests the Minister to seek an opinion from the Labour Court whether the proposal is a proposal to which this Part applies or states that the Panel is of the view that the conditions for the making of such a request that are set out in *subsection (3)* have not been satisfied, and

(ii) give a copy of that notice to the party from which the reference was received and other affected parties.

(3) The Redundancy Panel may not make a request to the Minister under *subsection (2)(b)(i)* unless—

(a) it appears to the Panel that the proposed collective redundancies are exceptional collective redundancies, and

(b) the Panel is satisfied that, in relation to the proposal, the party from which the reference was received—

(i) has unsuccessfully sought to resolve the matter through local engagement, that is, all or any of the following:

(I) established dispute-resolution procedures;

(II) procedures in place, or availed of by custom or usual practice, in the employment concerned;

(III) ordinary consultative procedures,

(ii) has acted reasonably and has not acted in a manner that, in the opinion of the Panel, has frustrated the possibility of agreement to restructuring, or other changes, necessary to secure the viability of the business of the employer and, as a consequence, the best possible levels of employment and conditions, and

(iii) has not had recourse to industrial action since the proposal was referred to the Panel.

Request by Minister for opinion of Labour Court.

7.— (1) The Minister may, either—

(a) within 7 working days of receiving a request from the Redundancy Panel under *section 6*, or

(b) subject to *subsection (3)*, on the Minister's own initiative, in the public interest,

request the Labour Court to issue an opinion whether collective redundancies proposed by an employer constitute exceptional collective redundancies.

(2) In *subsection (1)(b)*, “ public interest ” includes—

- (a) public order and the interests of national security,
- (b) public health and safety,
- (c) the need to protect the labour market, and
- (d) the protection of statutory employment rights.

(3) The Minister may make a request under *subsection (1)(b)* only if—

- (a) it appears to the Minister that the proposed collective redundancies are exceptional collective redundancies, and
- (b) the relevant period specified in *subsection (4)* has not expired.

(4) For the purposes of *subsection (3)(b)*, the relevant period is—

- (a) if the period of 30 days specified in section 9(3) of the Protection of Employment Act 1977 has not expired and a reference to the Redundancy Panel has not been made under *section 6(1)* — that period of 30 days,
- (b) if a reference to the Redundancy Panel has been made under *section 6(1)* but the Panel has not made a request under *section 6(2)* — the period of 7 working days specified in *section 6(2)*.

Hearings, and giving of opinions, by Labour Court.

8.— (1) Within 16 days of receiving a request under *section 7*, the Labour Court shall—

- (a) hold a hearing into the matter, and
- (b) either—
 - (i) issue to the Minister its opinion whether the proposed collective redundancies are exceptional collective redundancies, or
 - (ii) report to the Minister that, by reason of *subsection (2)*, it is unable to issue an opinion, specifying in the report the circumstances attracting the operation of that subsection.

(2) The Court may not issue an opinion under *subsection (1)* unless it is satisfied that, in relation to the relevant proposal—

- (a) the party from which the reference to the Panel was received has unsuccessfully sought to resolve the matter through local engagement, that is, all or any of the following:
 - (i) established dispute-resolution procedures;
 - (ii) procedures in place, or availed of by custom or usual practice, in the employment concerned;
 - (iii) ordinary consultative procedures,
- (b) that party has acted reasonably and has not acted in a manner that, in the opinion of the Court, has frustrated the possibility of agreement to restructuring, or other changes, necessary to secure the viability of the business of the employer and, as a consequence, the best possible levels of employment and conditions, and

(c) no industrial action, on the part of that party, is current.

(3) For the purposes of this Part, section 21 of the Industrial Relations Act 1946 has effect as if in subsection (1) of that section “and under *Part 2* of the *Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007*” were inserted after “for the purposes of any proceedings before it under this Act”.

(4) No appeal shall lie from an opinion given by the Labour Court under this section, but nothing in this section affects the power of the Employment Appeals Tribunal to make a decision on any question referred to it under section 39 of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967.

(5) The Minister shall, within 7 working days of receiving an opinion from the Labour Court under *subsection (1)*, notify affected parties, by such means as he considers appropriate, of the giving of the opinion and its content.

Annotations

Modifications (not altering text):

- C5** Prospective affecting provision: functions transferred and Employment Appeals Tribunal construed by *Workplace Relations Act 2015* (16/2015), s. 66, not commenced as of date of revision.

Transfer of functions from Employment Appeals Tribunal

- 66.(1) (a) All functions that, immediately before the dissolution day, were vested in the Employment Appeals Tribunal are transferred to the Commission in so far as they relate to any claim for redress, dispute or complaint determined by the Employment Appeals Tribunal under an employment enactment before that day.
- (b) All functions that, immediately before the dissolution day, were vested in the Employment Appeals Tribunal are transferred to the Labour Court in so far as they relate to appeals determined by the Employment Appeals Tribunal under an employment enactment before that day.
- (2) (a) References in any enactment or instrument under an enactment to the Employment Appeals Tribunal in so far as they relate to a function transferred by paragraph (a) of subsection (1) shall be construed as references to the Commission.
- (b) References in any enactment or instrument under an enactment to the Employment Appeals Tribunal in so far as they relate to a function transferred by paragraph (b) of subsection (1) shall be construed as references to the Labour Court.
- (3) This section shall come into operation on the dissolution day.

Effect of opinion. **9.— (1) Where—**

- (a) the Labour Court issues an opinion that collective redundancies proposed by an employer are exceptional collective redundancies,
- (b) the employer proceeds with the dismissals on the same basis as in the relevant proposal, and
- (c) the employer applies to the Minister for a rebate under Part III of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967,

the Minister shall have regard to the opinion of the Labour Court when considering the employer’s application for the rebate.

(2) If the Minister refuses to pay the rebate, or pays a reduced rebate, the exemption from income tax provided by section 203 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 does not apply in relation to lump sum payments made in pursuance of section 19 of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967 by the employer to employees dismissed as mentioned in *subsection (1)*.

(3) Section 7 of the Unfair Dismissals Act 1977 has effect in relation to a dismissal that is one of a number of dismissals included in a collective redundancy that is determined by the Labour Court, in an opinion given under *section 8*, to be an exceptional collective redundancy as if—

(a) the following paragraph were substituted for paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 7:

“(c) payment by the employer to the employee of such compensation as is just and equitable having regard to all the circumstances but does not exceed in amount remuneration in respect of the employment from which the employee was dismissed (calculated in accordance with regulations under section 17 of this Act) for—

(i) in the case of an employee who, at the date of the dismissal, had not more than 20 years’ continuous service — 208 weeks, or

(ii) in the case of an employee who, at the date of the dismissal, had more than 20 years’ continuous service — 260 weeks.”,

and

(b) the following subsection were substituted for *subsection (2)* of section 7:

“(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), in determining any reduction in the amount of compensation otherwise payable under paragraph (c) of that subsection regard shall be had only to the amount (if any) of severance or redundancy payment accepted by the employee in relation to the dismissal.”.

Extension of time during which dismissal may not take place.

10.— (1) The first dismissal under a proposal for collective redundancies that is referred to the Redundancy Panel under *section 6(1)* shall not take effect earlier than the expiration of the latest of whichever of the following periods is applicable:

(a) the period of 7 working days commencing on the day on which reference of the proposal is received by the Panel;

(b) the period of 7 working days commencing on the day on which a request made by the Redundancy Panel under *section 6(2)* is received by the Minister; or

(c) the period of 16 days commencing on the day on which a request made by the Minister under *section 7(1)* is lodged with the Labour Court.

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) affects either—

(a) the operation of section 9(3) or 12(1) of the Protection of Employment Act 1977, or

(b) the right of an employer to dismiss an employee otherwise than in pursuance of the proposal for collective redundancies.

(3) An employer who effects a dismissal in pursuance of a proposal for collective redundancies before the expiration of such of the periods specified in *subsection (1)* and in sections 9(3) and 12(1) of the Protection of Employment Act 1977 as are applicable is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction on indictment to a fine not exceeding €250,000.

PART 3

AMENDMENTS OF THE PROTECTION OF EMPLOYMENT ACT 1977

Amendment of section 2 (interpretation) of the Protection of Employment Act 1977. **11.**— Section 2 of the Protection of Employment Act 1977 is amended in subsection (1) by substituting the following for the definition of “the Minister”:
 “ ‘ Minister ’ means the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment;”.

Amendment of section 9 (obligation on employer to consult employees’ representatives) of the Protection of Employment Act 1977. **12.**— Section 9 of the Protection of Employment Act 1977 is amended in subsection (3) by substituting “before the first notice of dismissal is given” for “before the first dismissal takes effect”.

Further amendments (penalties) of the Protection of Employment Act 1977. **13.**— The Protection of Employment Act 1977 is amended in each of the provisions of it specified in the Table to this section by substituting the amount specified in column (3) of that Table for the amount specified in column (2) of that Table opposite the number of the provision concerned.

(1) Provision	(2) Delete—	(3) Substitute—
Section 11	£1,500	€5,000
Section 13	£1,500	€5,000
Section 14	€12,500	€250,000
Section 17(3)	£1,500	€5,000
Section 18(3)	£1,500	€5,000

PART 4

AMENDMENTS OF THE REDUNDANCY PAYMENTS ACT 1967

Amendment of section 2 (interpretation) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967. **14.**— Section 2 of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967 is amended in subsection (1) by substituting the following for the definition of “the Minister”:
 “ ‘ Minister ’ means the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment;”.

Amendment of section 4 (classes of persons to which this Act applies) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967. **15.**— Section 4 of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967 is amended by substituting the following for subsection (1):
 “(1) Subject to this section and to section 47, this Act applies to—
 (a) employees employed in employment which is insurable for all benefits under the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005,

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- (b) employees who were so employed in such employment in the period of four years ending on the date of termination of employment, and
- (c) employees who have attained the age of 66 years and are in employment that would be insurable for all benefits under the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005 but for—
 - (i) their attainment of that age, or
 - (ii) the fact that the employment concerned is excepted employment by reason of paragraph 2, 4 or 5 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 to that Act.”.

Amendment of section 7 (general right to redundancy payment) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967.

16.— Section 7 of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967 is amended by inserting the following after subsection (2):

“(2A) For the purposes of subsection (1), an employee who is dismissed shall be taken not to be dismissed by reason of redundancy if—

- (a) the dismissal is one of a number of dismissals that, together, constitute collective redundancies as defined in section 6 of the Protection of Employment Act 1977,
- (b) the dismissals concerned were effected on a compulsory basis,
- (c) the dismissed employees were, or are to be, replaced, at the same location or elsewhere in the State, (except where the employer has an existing operation with established terms and conditions) by—
 - (i) other persons who are, or are to be, directly employed by the employer, or
 - (ii) other persons whose services are, or are to be, provided to that employer in pursuance of other arrangements,
- (d) those other persons perform, or are to perform, essentially the same functions as the dismissed employees, and
- (e) the terms and conditions of employment of those other persons are, or are to be, materially inferior to those of the dismissed employees.”.

Amendment of section 38 (decisions by deciding officers) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967.

17.— Section 38 of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967 is amended in subsection (1) by substituting the following for paragraphs (a) to (f):

- “(a) as to who is the employer of an employee,
 - (b) in relation to the payment from the Social Insurance Fund of—
 - (i) rebates to employers under section 29, or
 - (ii) lump sums to employees under section 32,
- or
- (c) on such other matters arising under this Act as are prescribed,”.

Amendment of section 39 (Redundancy Appeals Tribunal and appeals and references there-to) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967.

18.— Section 39 of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967 is amended in subsection (16) by deleting “in the prescribed manner”.

Further amendments (penalties) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967.

19.— The Redundancy Payments Act 1967 is amended in each of the provisions of it specified in the Table to this section by substituting the amount specified in column (3) of that Table for the amount specified in column (2) of that Table opposite the number of the provision concerned.

TABLE

(1) Provision	(2) Delete—	(3) Substitute—
Section 17(3)	€3,000	€5,000
Section 18(4)	€3,000	€5,000
Section 36(3)	€3,000	€5,000
Section 39(17)(e)	£150	€5,000

PART 5

AMENDMENTS OF THE REDUNDANCY PAYMENTS ACT 1971

Repeal of section 3 (provisions relating to persons reaching qualifying age for old age pension) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1971.

20.— Section 3 of the Redundancy Payments Act 1971 is repealed.

Amendment of section 16 (offences relating to payments under Principal Act) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1971.

21.— Section 16 of the Redundancy Payments Act 1971 is amended in subsections (1) and (2) by substituting “€5,000” for “£300”.

PART 6

AMENDMENTS OF THE REDUNDANCY PAYMENTS ACT 1979

Amendment of section 1 (definitions) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1979. **22.**— Section 1 of the Redundancy Payments Act 1979 is amended by substituting the following for the definition of “the Minister”:
“ ‘ Minister ’ means the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment;”

Repeal of section 5 (provisions relating to persons reaching qualifying age for old age pension) of the Redundancy Payments Act 1979. **23.**— Section 5 of the Redundancy Payments Act 1979 is repealed.

PART 7

AMENDMENTS OF THE UNFAIR DISMISSALS ACT 1977

Amendment of section 1 (definitions) of the Unfair Dismissals Act 1977. **24.**— Section 1 of the Unfair Dismissals Act 1977 is amended in subsection (1) by substituting the following for the definition of “the Minister”:
“ ‘ Minister ’ means the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment;”

Amendment of section 2 (exclusions) of the Unfair Dismissals Act 1977. **25.**— (1) Section 2 of the Unfair Dismissals Act 1977 is amended in subsection (2)—
(a) by substituting “Subject to subsection (2A), this Act” for “This Act”, and
(b) by deleting the proviso (commencing with the words “Provided that where, following dismissal”, including the interpretative passage commencing with the words “In this proviso ‘antecedent contract’,”).

(2) Section 2 of the Unfair Dismissals Act 1977 is amended by inserting the following after subsection (2):

“(2A) Where, following dismissal consisting only of the expiry of the term of a contract of employment of a kind mentioned in subsection (2) (‘the prior contract’) without the term being renewed under the contract or the cesser of the purpose of the contract—

- (a) the employee concerned is re-employed by the employer concerned within 3 months of the dismissal under a contract of employment of that kind made between the employer and the employee (‘the subsequent contract’) and the nature of the employment is the same as or similar to that of the employment under the prior contract,
- (b) the employee is dismissed from the employment,
- (c) the dismissal consisted only of the expiry of the term of the subsequent contract without the term being renewed under the contract or the cesser of the purpose of the contract, and
- (d) in the opinion of the rights commissioner, the Tribunal or the Circuit Court, as the case may be, the entry by the employer into the subsequent contract was wholly or partly for, or was connected with, the purpose of the avoidance of liability under this Act,

then—

- (i) this Act shall, subject to its other provisions, apply to the dismissal, and
- (ii) the term of the prior contract and of any antecedent contracts shall be added to that of the subsequent contract for the purpose of the ascertainment under this Act of the period of service of the employee with the employer and the period so ascertained shall be deemed for those purposes to be one of continuous service.

(2B) In subsection (2A), ‘antecedent contract’, in relation to a prior contract, means—

- (a) a contract of employment of the kind mentioned in subsection (2) the term of which expired not more than 3 months before the commencement of the prior contract, or
- (b) each of a series of contracts the term of the last of which expired not more than 3 months before the commencement of that of the prior contract and the term of the other or of each of the other contracts in the series expired not more than 3 months before the commencement of that of the other, or the next, contract in the series,

being a contract or contracts made between the employer and the employee who were parties to the prior contract and the nature of the employment under which was the same as or similar to that of the employment under the prior contract.”.

(3) Section 2 of the Unfair Dismissals Act 1977 is amended in subsection (5) by substituting “subsection (2A)” for “the proviso (inserted by the Unfair Dismissals (Amendment) Act, 1993) to subsection (2) of this section”.

Amendment of section 5 (dismissal by way of lock-out or for taking part in strike) of the Unfair Dismissals Act 1977.

26.— Section 5 of the Unfair Dismissals Act 1977 is amended by inserting the following after subsection (2):

“(2A) Without prejudice to the applicability of any of the provisions of section 6 to the case, where—

- (a) an employee—
 - (i) is deemed by subsection (1) to have been dismissed by reason of a lock-out, or
 - (ii) is dismissed for taking part in a strike or other industrial action,
- and
- (b) none of those who were locked out, or took part in the strike or industrial action, were re-engaged,

in determining whether, in those circumstances, the dismissal is an unfair dismissal, the rights commissioner, the Tribunal or the Circuit Court, as the case may be, shall have regard, for that purpose only, to—

- (i) the reasonableness or otherwise of the conduct (whether by act or omission) of the employer or employee in relation to the dismissal,
- (ii) the extent (if any) of the compliance or failure to comply by the employer with the procedure referred to in section 14(1),

- (iii) the extent (if any) of the compliance or failure to comply by the employer or the employee with provisions of any code of practice referred to in section 7(2)(d), and
- (iv) whether the parties have adhered to any agreed grievance procedures applicable to the employment in question at the time of the lock-out, strike or industrial action.”.

PART 8

AMENDMENTS OF THE EMPLOYMENT EQUALITY ACT 1998

Amendment of section 17 (compliance with statutory requirements, etc.) of the Employment Equality Act 1998.

27.— (1) The amendment of section 17 of the Employment Equality Act 1998 made by paragraph (b) of section 10 of the Equality Act 2004 is deemed to have had effect from the commencement of that paragraph as if “inserting the following subsection after subsection (3)” had appeared instead of “substituting the following subsection for subsection (4)”.

(2) Section 17 of the Employment Equality Act 1998 is amended by substituting the following subsection for subsection (4):

“(4) In relation to discrimination on the age ground, nothing in this Act shall render unlawful any act done in compliance with—

- (a) the Protection of Young Persons (Employment) Act 1996, or
- (b) the National Minimum Wage Act 2000.”.