

# SCHEDULES

## SCHEDULE 1

Article 15

### STATUTORY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

#### PART I

#### DISMISSAL AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

##### CHAPTER I

##### STANDARD PROCEDURE

###### *Step 1: statement of grounds for action and invitation to meeting*

1.—(1) The employer must set out in writing the employee's alleged conduct or characteristics, or other circumstances, which lead him to contemplate dismissing or taking disciplinary action against the employee.

(2) The employer must send the statement or a copy of it to the employee and invite the employee to attend a meeting to discuss the matter.

###### *Step 2: meeting*

2.—(1) The meeting must take place before action is taken, except in the case where the disciplinary action consists of suspension.

(2) The meeting must not take place unless—

(a) the employer has informed the employee what the basis was for including in the statement under paragraph 1(1) the ground or grounds given in it, and

(b) the employee has had a reasonable opportunity to consider his response to that information.

(3) The employee must take all reasonable steps to attend the meeting.

(4) After the meeting, the employer must inform the employee of his decision and notify him of the right to appeal against the decision if he is not satisfied with it.

###### *Step 3: appeal*

3.—(1) If the employee does wish to appeal, he must inform the employer.

(2) If the employee informs the employer of his wish to appeal, the employer must invite him to attend a further meeting.

(3) The employee must take all reasonable steps to attend the meeting.

(4) The appeal meeting need not take place before the dismissal or disciplinary action takes effect.

(5) After the appeal meeting, the employer must inform the employee of his final decision.

*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made).*

CHAPTER II  
MODIFIED PROCEDURE

*Step 1: statement of grounds for action*

4. The employer must—
- (a) set out in writing—
    - (i) the employee's alleged misconduct which has led to the dismissal,
    - (ii) what the basis was for thinking at the time of the dismissal that the employee was guilty of the alleged misconduct, and
    - (iii) the employee's right to appeal against dismissal, and
  - (b) send the statement or a copy of it to the employee.

*Step 2: appeal*

- 5.—(1) If the employee does wish to appeal, he must inform the employer.  
(2) If the employee informs the employer of his wish to appeal, the employer must invite him to attend a meeting.  
(3) The employee must take all reasonable steps to attend the meeting.  
(4) After the appeal meeting, the employer must inform the employee of his final decision.

PART II  
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES  
CHAPTER I  
STANDARD PROCEDURE

*Step 1: statement of grievance*

6. The employee must set out the grievance in writing and send the statement or a copy of it to the employer.

*Step 2: meeting*

- 7.—(1) The employer must invite the employee to attend a meeting to discuss the grievance.  
(2) The meeting must not take place unless—
  - (a) the employee has informed the employer what the basis for the grievance was when he made the statement under paragraph 6, and
  - (b) the employer has had a reasonable opportunity to consider his response to that information.  
(3) The employee must take all reasonable steps to attend the meeting.  
(4) After the meeting, the employer must inform the employee of his decision as to his response to the grievance and notify him of the right to appeal against the decision if he is not satisfied with it.

*Step 3: appeal*

- 8.**—(1) If the employee does wish to appeal, he must inform the employer.  
(2) If the employee informs the employer of his wish to appeal, the employer must invite him to attend a further meeting.  
(3) The employee must take all reasonable steps to attend the meeting.  
(4) After the appeal meeting, the employer must inform the employee of his final decision.

CHAPTER II  
MODIFIED PROCEDURE

*Step 1: statement of grievance*

- 9.** The employee must—  
(a) set out in writing—  
    (i) the grievance, and  
    (ii) the basis for it, and  
(b) send the statement or a copy of it to the employer.

*Step 2: response*

- 10.** The employer must set out his response in writing and send the statement or a copy of it to the employee.

PART III  
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

*Introductory*

- 11.** The following requirements apply to each of the procedures set out above (so far as applicable).

*Timetable*

- 12.** Each step and action under the procedure must be taken without unreasonable delay.

*Meetings*

- 13.**—(1) Timing and location of meetings must be reasonable.  
(2) Meetings must be conducted in a manner that enables both employer and employee to explain their cases.  
(3) In the case of appeal meetings which are not the first meeting, the employer should, as far as is reasonably practicable, be represented by a more senior manager than attended the first meeting (unless the most senior manager attended that meeting).

## PART IV SUPPLEMENTARY

### *Status of meetings*

**14.** A meeting held for the purposes of this Schedule is a hearing for the purposes of Article 15(4) and (5) of the [Employment Relations \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1999 \(NI 9\)](#) (definition of “disciplinary hearing” and “grievance hearing” in relation to the right to be accompanied under Article 12 of that Order).

### *Scope of grievance procedures*

**15.—(1)** The procedures set out in Part II are only applicable to matters raised by an employee with his employer as a grievance.

(2) Accordingly, those procedures are only applicable to the kind of disclosure dealt with in Part VA of the Employment Rights Order (protected disclosures of information) if information is disclosed by an employee to his employer in circumstances where—

- (a) the information relates to a matter which the employee could raise as a grievance with his employer, and
- (b) it is the intention of the employee that the disclosure should constitute the raising of the matter with his employer as a grievance.