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# Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992

## 1992 CHAPTER 52

### PART VI

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

##### *The Certification Officer*

#### **254 The Certification Officer.**

- (1) There shall continue to be an officer called the Certification Officer.
- (2) The Certification Officer shall be appointed by the Secretary of State after consultation with ACAS.
- (3) The Certification Officer may appoint one or more assistant certification officers and shall appoint an assistant certification officer for Scotland.
- (4) The Certification Officer may delegate to an assistant certification officer such functions as he thinks appropriate, and in particular may delegate to the assistant certification officer for Scotland such functions as he thinks appropriate in relation to organisations whose principal office is in Scotland.

References to the Certification Officer in enactments relating to his functions shall be construed accordingly.

- (5) ACAS shall provide for the Certification Officer the requisite staff (from among the officers and servants of ACAS) and the requisite accommodation, equipment and other facilities.
- (6) The Secretary of State shall pay to the Certification Officer such sums as he may require for making payments under the scheme under section 115 (payments towards expenditure in connection with secret ballots).

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## **255 Remuneration, &c. of Certification Officer and assistants.**

- (1) ACAS shall pay to the Certification Officer and any assistant certification officer such remuneration and travelling and other allowances as may be determined by the Secretary of State.
- (2) The Secretary of State may pay, or make provision for payment, to or in respect of the Certification Officer and any assistant certification officer such pension, allowance or gratuity on death or retirement as he may determine.
- (3) Where a person ceases to be the Certification Officer or an assistant certification officer otherwise than on the expiry of his term of office and it appears to the Secretary of State that there are special circumstances which make it right for him to receive compensation, he may make him a payment of such amount he may determine.
- (4) The approval of the Treasury is required for any determination by the Secretary of State under this section.

## **256 Procedure before the Certification Officer.**

- (1) Except in relation to matters as to which express provision is made by or under an enactment, the Certification Officer may regulate the procedure to be followed—
  - (a) on any application or complaint made to him, or
  - (b) where his approval is sought with respect to any matter.
- (2) He shall, in particular, make such provision as he thinks appropriate for restricting the circumstances in which the identity of an individual who has made, or is proposing to make, any such application or complaint is disclosed to any person.
- (3) The Secretary of State may, with the consent of the Treasury, make a scheme providing for the payment by the Certification Officer to persons of such sums as may be specified in or determined under the scheme in respect of expenses incurred by them for the purposes of, or in connection with, their attendance at hearings held by him in the course of carrying out his functions.
- (4) ACAS shall pay to the Certification Officer such sums as he may require for the making of payments in pursuance of any such scheme.

VALID FROM 06/04/2005

### **[<sup>F1</sup>256Z] Striking out**

- (1) At any stage of proceedings on an application or complaint made to the Certification Officer, he may—
  - (a) order the application or complaint, or any response, to be struck out on the grounds that it is scandalous, vexatious, has no reasonable prospect of success or is otherwise misconceived,
  - (b) order anything in the application or complaint, or in any response, to be amended or struck out on those grounds, or
  - (c) order the application or complaint, or any response, to be struck out on the grounds that the manner in which the proceedings have been conducted by or on behalf of the applicant or complainant or (as the case may be) respondent has been scandalous, vexatious, or unreasonable.

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- (2) The Certification Officer may order an application or complaint made to him to be struck out for excessive delay in proceeding with it.
- (3) An order under this section may be made on the Certification Officer's own initiative and may also be made—
  - (a) if the order sought is to strike out an application or complaint, or to amend or strike out anything in an application or complaint, on an application by the respondent, or
  - (b) if the order sought is to strike out any response, or to amend or strike out anything in any response, on an application by the person who made the application or complaint mentioned in subsection (1).
- (4) Before making an order under this section, the Certification Officer shall send notice to the party against whom it is proposed that the order should be made giving him an opportunity to show cause why the order should not be made.
- (5) Subsection (4) shall not be taken to require the Certification Officer to send a notice under that subsection if the party against whom it is proposed that the order under this section should be made has been given an opportunity to show cause orally why the order should not be made.
- (6) Nothing in this section prevents the Certification Officer from making further provision under section 256(1) about the striking out of proceedings on any application or complaint made to him.
- (7) An appeal lies to the Employment Appeal Tribunal on any question of law arising from a decision of the Certification Officer under this section.
- (8) In this section—

“response” means any response made by a trade union or other body in the exercise of a right to be heard, or to make representations, in response to the application or complaint;

“respondent” means any trade union, or other body, that has such a right.]

#### Textual Amendments

**F1** S. 256ZA inserted (6.4.2005) by Employment Relations Act 2004 (c. 24), ss. 48, 59(2)-(4); S.I. 2005/872, art. 4, Sch. (with arts. 6-21)

VALID FROM 25/10/1999

#### [<sup>F2</sup>256A Vexatious litigants.

- (1) The Certification Officer may refuse to entertain any application or complaint made to him under a provision of Chapters III to VIIA of Part I by a vexatious litigant.
- (2) The Certification Officer must give reasons for such a refusal.
- (3) Subsection (1) does not apply to a complaint under section 37E(1)(b) or to an application under section 41.

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- (4) For the purposes of subsection (1) a vexatious litigant is a person who is the subject of—
- (a) an order which is made under section 33(1) of the <sup>M1</sup>Employment Tribunals Act 1996 and which remains in force,
  - (b) a civil proceedings order or an all proceedings order which is made under section 42(1) of the <sup>M2</sup>Supreme Court Act 1981 and which remains in force,
  - (c) an order which is made under section 1 of the <sup>M3</sup>Vexatious Actions (Scotland) Act 1898, or
  - (d) an order which is made under section 32 of the <sup>M4</sup>Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978.]

#### Textual Amendments

**F2** Ss. 256A, 256B inserted (25.10.1999) by 1999 c. 26, s. 29, Sch. 6 paras. 1, 23; S.I. 1999/2830, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1 Pt. I** (with Sch. 3 para. 5)

#### Marginal Citations

**M1** 1996 c. 17.  
**M2** 1981 c. 54.  
**M3** 1898 c. 35.  
**M4** 1978 c. 23.

VALID FROM 25/10/1999

#### [<sup>F3</sup>256B Vexatious litigants: applications disregarded.

- (1) For the purposes of a relevant enactment an application to the Certification Officer shall be disregarded if—
- (a) it was made under a provision mentioned in the relevant enactment, and
  - (b) it was refused by the Certification Officer under section 256A(1).
- (2) The relevant enactments are sections 26(8), 31(7), 45C(5B), 56(8), 72A(10), 81(8) and 108A(13).]

#### Textual Amendments

**F3** Ss. 256A, 256B inserted (25.10.1999) by 1999 c. 26, s. 29, Sch. 6 paras. 1, 23; S.I. 1999/2830, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1 Pt. I** (with Sch. 3 para. 5)

#### 257 Custody of documents submitted under earlier legislation.

- (1) The Certification Officer shall continue to have custody of the annual returns, accounts, copies of rules and other documents submitted for the purposes of—
- (a) the Trade Union Acts 1871 to 1964,
  - (b) the <sup>M5</sup>Industrial Relations Act 1971, or
  - (c) the <sup>M6</sup>Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974,

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of which he took custody under section 9 of the <sup>M7</sup>Employment Protection Act 1975.

- (2) He shall keep available for public inspection (either free of charge or on payment of a reasonable charge) at all reasonable hours such of those documents as were available for public inspection in pursuance of any of those Acts.

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**Marginal Citations**

**M5** 1971 c. 72.

**M6** 1974 c. 52.

**M7** 1975 c. 71.

**258 Annual report and accounts.**

- (1) The Certification Officer shall, as soon as practicable after the end of each calendar year, make a report of his activities during that year to ACAS and to the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State shall lay a copy of the report before each House of Parliament and arrange for it to be published.

- (2) The accounts prepared by ACAS in respect of any financial year shall show separately any sums disbursed to or on behalf of the Certification Officer in consequence of the provisions of this Part.

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