

Your weekly update of the key topics making the headlines.

Based around the seven characteristics of the Good Employment Charter

26 JANUARY – 30 JANUARY 2026

SECURE WORK

[Court of Appeal finds that “volunteer” Coastguard Officers are workers - Blake Morgan](#)

Blake Morgan

The case concerned a claim originally brought by Mr Groom in the Employment Tribunal back in the autumn of 2020. ... UK local authorities. These ...

[The government's response to the MAC's Seasonal Worker review - GOV.UK](#)

GOV.UK

... flexible visa, fairer work and pay for workers, tighten communicate and enforce employer rights, and consider the Employer Pays Principle (EPP).

FLEXIBLE WORK

[Travel leaders welcome visa-free travel to China - The Business Travel Magazine](#)

The Business Travel Magazine

News that UK passport holders will soon be able to travel to China ... people greater confidence to book. “Visa-free travel has consistently ...

PAY

[Wages in 11 towns rise twice as fast as rest of UK - Personnel Today](#)

Personnel Today

... work through skills support and better transport links. Reducing constraints on housing and commercial space, allowing growing places to reach ...

[UK insurers near boardroom gender pay parity - Insurance Business](#)

Insurance Business

Diversity & Inclusion ... UK insurers have slashed the gender pay gap for non-executive directors to near zero, putting the sector ahead of most global ...

[Graduate benefit claimants soar since pandemic - Personnel Today](#)

Personnel Today

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[Treasury announces support package for pubs](#)

Sharecast

Danni Hewson, head of financial analysis at AJ Bell, said: "A cut of 15% and a freeze on the amount they pay ... **minimum wage**." contador. Advertising ...

[Social workers get backdated pay rise, as Cafcass and union settle dispute](#)

Community Care

The latest job opportunities within the social work sector. Search jobs. Events. View this year's leading live events for social workers.

[Introduction of New Fair Deal to the LGPS - Local Government Lawyer](#)

Local Government Lawyer

... employment respects. These changes will dispense with the need for admission agreements, with the intention being to reduce the administrative ...

ENGAGEMENT AND VOICE

[Ubisoft worker unions reportedly vote to strike as publisher proposes 200 voluntary ... - Eurogamer](#)

Eurogamer

French unions representing workers at Ubisoft have reportedly voted unanimously in favour of strike action in response to a voluntary redundancy ...

[Dundee University staff walk out for 26th time in 15 months - STV News](#)

STV News - STV Player

The troubled institution has received £62m of public funds and 300 staff have taken voluntary redundancy. ... We want compulsory redundancies off the ...

RECRUITMENT

[New digital medical records to speed up Armed Forces recruitment | Ministry of Defence](#)

WiredGov

The contract demonstrates how the Defence Industrial Strategy is making defence an engine for growth, supporting innovation and jobs across the UK and ...

[Ingeus to support more than 5,000 residents in Lancashire with free employment support](#)

Lancashire Evening Post

Ingeus has been awarded two contracts to deliver the Connect to Work ... Connect to Work is a voluntary, UK Government-funded initiative ...

[Radical measures needed to close arts class gap in Greater Manchester, inquiry finds](#)

The University of Manchester

... Manchester Nazir Afzal OBE and Avis Gilmore, former Deputy General ... Business engagement and knowledge exchange · Policy · Make a donation.

['UK-first' city-wide property inclusion charter marks milestone - Bristol24/7](#)

Bristol24/7

Launched by the Bristol-based commercial property lawyer Karl Brown, the Bristol Property Inclusion Charter was created to boost diversity and ...

[Popeyes to create hundreds of jobs with five new Greater Manchester restaurants](#)

Insider Media

Popeyes UK has announced a major expansion across Greater Manchester, confirming that five new restaurants will open in 2026, creating more than ...

[Aldi to create 500 apprenticeships this year - Retail Systems](#)

Retail Systems

The apprenticeships cover store and warehouse roles across the UK, leading to industry recognised qualifications. ... Aldi said the recruitment drive ...

[North West Leads the Way with UK's First Academy for Hospice and Palliative Care Workers](#)

The Carer

Anita Hayes, Clinical Quality Lead at Hospice UK, said: "This Academy is an important step in future-proofing our workforce. It offers tailored ...

[Women into Employment returns in 2026 to empower women across the Armed Forces community](#)

Cobseo

This is followed by three lunchtime webinars focused on purpose, applications, interviews, mentoring, and employer relationships. The event series ...

[IMI partners with Not Going to Uni to attract young talent | Market insight - AM-online](#)

AM-online

Opportunities include careers on the road, in retail environments and in office-based roles across the UK. The MoreToMotor job search function ...

[Assessment of AI capabilities and the impact on the UK labour market - GOV.UK](#)

GOV.UK

In reviewing this evidence, we have focused on AI systems with capabilities that are improving rapidly and that could, if current trends continue, ...

[AI Skills for Life and Work: Labour market and skills projections - GOV.UK](#)

GOV.UK

The study integrates technological trends from patent and vacancy data with these projections to estimate the potential effects of AI on different ...

[AI Skills for Life and Work: summary report - GOV.UK](#)

GOV.UK

Analysis of AI -related job vacancies from 2021-2023 and US patent statistics from 2014-2023, synthesised into a skills forecast. A Delphi study with ...

[Jobseekers assemble – Manchester Digital's flagship Talent Day is back next week](#)

Prolific North

... Greater Manchester's £5bn digital and tech economy. Located at the ... Tech employers confirmed include: AJ Bell, UK BioBank, Government ...

['Competency passport' could help workers switch roles in transport manufacturing ...](#)

IMechE

"The UK has a long and proud history of manufacturing motor vehicles, buses, aeroplanes, trains, ships and their component parts, but there are ...

PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

[Manchester Launches Online Vulnerability Platform - CLH News](#)

CLH News

... UK and internationally. This innovative BIIAB Accredited Training ... If you are a hospitality operator based in Greater Manchester and are ...

[TSA aims to support the laundry industry in adopting AI - Cleaning & Maintenance](#)

Cleaning & Maintenance

It will also consider how the laundry industry can benefit from a new government funded training programme ... UK's cleaning and hygiene industry.

[Landmark programme for theatre-makers launched - Nation.Cymru](#)

Nation.Cymru

This review emphasised that a healthy theatre ecology depends on its people and identified structural gaps in terms of mentorship programmes and ...

[AI causing more job losses in UK than elsewhere - Personnel Today](#)

Personnel Today

HR Advisor. Hays Human Resources. Portsmouth, England; £45000.0 - £50000.0 per annum + Up to £50,000 FTE, DOE.

[IPP Week 2025: leading the way around equality, diversity, and inclusion](#)

The Pharmacists' Defence Association

Inclusive Pharmacy Practice (IPP) Week, is a national initiative jointly established by NHS England and 15 pharmacy partner organisations.

[UPDATE: Exertis UK to Make Fewer Than 400 Staff Redundant | Dealer Support](#)

Dealer Support

In a statement issued earlier this week, Exertis UK said: "The employee ... The ROI of Staff Wellbeing: Why It Matters More Than Ever by Maia Brown ...

[Revolution bars owner shuts 21 venues and cuts 591 jobs - BBC News](#)

BBC

Manchester, Oxford Road – Greater Manchester. Manchester, Parsonage ... business rates are calculated come into effect in April. The changes ...

[Evaluation of the Flexible AI Upskilling Fund - GOV.UK](#)

GOV.UK

Additional work to understand the reasons why, including any barriers faced and additional support requirements, could have increased the ...

[Modern Slavery Fund internal review 2022 to 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

GOV.UK

Over 2,000 Romanians across the UK received information about workers' rights and how to deal with abuse and exploitation: Skills and Education ...

[Human resources tool could help employers prepare for digital twinning](#)

Heriot-Watt University

"Our Human Capital Readiness Index will help us understand what specific human resources ... UK's transport system. Transport operators and travellers ...

[Government rolls out free AI training to upskill workforce - Personnel Today](#)

Personnel Today

... AI and the Future of Work Unit to look at the challenges associated with the changes to jobs and work that AI brings. Chair of Skills England and ...

[Women in Film and TV Launches 2026 Four Nations Mentoring Scheme - North East Screen](#)

North East Screen

Last year's cohort gained so much from the mentoring programme ... Across the UK we make sure there's a rich cross section of crafts and ...

[City of Wolverhampton College invites employers to free online equality, diversity and ...](#)

Express & Star

The interactive session - entitled Designing EDI 2.0: a practical guide for today's employers - is aimed at employers who have limited knowledge ...

[Stockport Council Launches New Construction Skills and Employment Hub - Invest In Manchester](#)

Invest In Manchester

A successful pilot with Greater Manchester Green Economy Team on solar power, resulting in five locally-based construction businesses entering the ...

[Original Factory Shop announces 137 UK stores to close with 1180 jobs at risk - full list of closures](#)

Manchester Evening News

This leaves 137 of the chain's UK stores and 1,180 jobs at risk while insolvency experts assess options to keep the brand afloat. The Original ...

[Amazon to cut around 16,000 jobs in fresh round of layoffs | ITV News](#)

ITVX

An Amazon representative announced the job cuts in a blog post after redundancy plans were accidentally shared with some staff on Tuesday.

[Equality regulator partners with National Fire Chiefs Council to tackle discrimination in ... - WiredGov](#)

WiredGov

... inclusion across fire. ... inclusion across fire and rescue services. The NFCC is the professional voice of the UK Fire and Rescue Service. Its ...

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

[MHRA issues new guidance for people using mental health apps and technologies](#)

GOV.UK

"Digital mental health technologies are not a replacement for professional healthcare. ... UK by ensuring they work and are acceptably safe. All our ...

[Female staff at Telford firm supported by 'hormone holidays' - BBC News](#)

BBC

Image caption,. Marzena Raj, 42 and Dorota Kocol, 37, have praised the company's policy ... NI to become first in the UK to introduce graduated driving ...

[Keep Britain Working to accelerate workplace health solutions - Personnel Today](#)

Personnel Today

Sir Charlie Mayfield has said he hopes to accelerate the work of his Keep Britain Working Review, with an aim to have solutions in place within a ...

[Night workers struggle with transport, food and safety - Personnel Today](#)

Personnel Today

Recruitment Consultant. Hays Human Resources. Cheltenham, England; £36400 - £40000 per annum + uncapped commission. Recruitment ConsultantCheltenham - ...

[Poundland and the Retail Trust join forces to protect staff mental health - A1 Retail Magazine](#)

A1 Retail Magazine

The Retail Trust works with more than 200 retailers to improve the mental health of their staff. Chris Brook-Carter, chief executive of the Retail ...

[Hospitality Charities Join Forces To Help Professionals Stay In The Industry During Times Of ...](#)

CLH News

... mentoring, professional CPD learning resources ... Feedback from past IoH Funded Membership recipients cite that: "The mentoring programme ...

[New white paper offers actions for managing trauma in the workplace](#)

Phys.org

... UK workforce. A new white paper, "Managing Trauma in the Workplace: Strategies for Wellbeing and Organizational Resilience," brings together ...

GENERAL

[Government response to Lords Select Committee's report Time to deliver: The Autism Act ...](#)

GOV.UK

The rest of this chapter will set out relevant work already underway on support ... support inclusive hiring practice in the UK. Sir Charlie recognised ...

[Disability Advisory Panel launches to help shape health and disability policy](#)

Healthcare Management Magazine

... work directly with ministers on policies affecting disabled people ... Nabila Gardner (Midlands) - director/founder at Ways for Wellbeing UK CIC.

[The government launches data-driven Kickstarter projects to improve public services](#)

Open Access Government

The UK government has revealed a package of new Kickstarter projects ... employment law or international procurement. Another initiative will ...

[Operators unveiled for first franchised bus services in the Liverpool City Region since the 1980s](#)

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North West · Business · Liverpool franchised bus services · Steve Rotheram. Value our news and insights? You can add us as a preferred source on ...

[Transport secretary signs transformational rail deal with Greater Manchester](#)

Rail UK

The government has formally agreed to work with Greater Manchester on plans for a new railway connecting Liverpool and Manchester via Warrington

[Consultation underway into future of transport in Greater Manchester - Marketing Stockport](#)

Marketing Stockport

A major consultation is underway to hear Greater Manchester residents' and businesses' views on plans for the local transport network through to ...

[New national AI centre 'will drive innovation' across forces - Police Professional](#)

Police Professional

The Home Office says these tools will help free-up officers from desk duties back to the front line, speed up investigations and reduce bureaucracy, ...

ABOUT THE GREATER MANCHESTER GOOD EMPLOYMENT CHARTER

The Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter is a voluntary membership and assessment scheme which has been created to improve employment standards across all GM employers, regardless of size, sector or geography. Organisations within the private, public and third sectors are welcome to [join the movement](#).

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