

Your weekly update of the key topics making the headlines.

Based around the seven characteristics of the Good Employment Charter

2 FEBRUARY – 6 FEBRUARY 2026

SECURE WORK

[New TUC analysis shows insecure work is rife in West Yorkshire - Trades Union Congress](#)

Trades Union Congress

... work, and call on all parties to support increased employment rights ... [uk/news/new-mega-poll-shows-employment-rights-bills-critics-are-world](#) ...

[Urban Outfitters under fire as freelancing returns to fashion retail](#)

TheIndustry.fashion

... pay to £12.14 an hour. That places earnings below the legal minimum for employees, although freelancers are not covered by minimum wage legislation.

[Royal Mail-owned courier faces tribunal over drivers' rights - The Guardian](#)

The Guardian

Their case, due to be heard at an employment tribunal this year ... [UK drivers as self-employed](#). 28 Oct 2016. 3,699. 3699. comments. Uber driver ...

FLEXIBLE WORK

[Consultation opens on flexible working changes - Personnel Today](#)

Personnel Today

The Department for Business and Trade has launched a consultation on proposed changes to flexible working regulations.

PAY

[Oxford Living Wage: helping to make Oxford a fairer city](#)

Oxford City Council

Oxford City Council launched the Oxford Living Wage (OLW) in 2018, following a cross-party campaign in 2017, to reflect the real cost of living here.

[MoD loses appeal in Army reservist pension case - Personnel Today](#)

Personnel Today

Milroy also raised a claim under the Part-Time Workers (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000. The original tribunal found that ...

[Consultation launched on strengthening the law on tipping - Personnel Today](#)

Personnel Today

... workers – ensuring money ends up with the workers who have earned it. ... [Employee Benefits](#) · [Forum for Expatriate Management](#) · [Whatmedia](#). [ADVERTISING](#) ...

[Government launches measures to close gender pension gap - Employee Benefits](#)

[Employee Benefits](#)

Justin Corliss, pension expert at Royal London, said: “The reforms to LGPS coming into effect in England and Wales from April will be welcomed, ...

ENGAGEMENT AND VOICE

[Resident doctors vote to extend strike mandate - Personnel Today](#)

[Personnel Today](#)

Further strikes will pile yet more unplanned costs on NHS organisations, forcing health leaders to make difficult choices over reducing staff and ...

[Equity and Manchester Village Pride to sign first ever UK union agreement for a Pride event](#)

[IER](#)

The union agreement will guarantee fair pay, professional industry standards and decent working conditions for all performers. Importantly, it will ...

[Consultation launched on union recognition and e-ballot practices - Personnel Today](#)

[Personnel Today](#)

The Employment Rights Act 2025 makes several changes to the statutory trade union recognition process to ensure that workers have a meaningful ...

RECRUITMENT

[New campaign encourages people to consider jobs in local government - Yahoo News UK](#)

[Yahoo News UK](#)

The campaign runs throughout January and February 2026 and is funded by the UK government. ... It also emphasises career progression through training ...

[University of Liverpool Launches £1000-Funded Internship Programme to Boost Innovation ...](#)

[Liverpool City Region Destination Partnership](#)

A new initiative from the University of Liverpool is set to accelerate business innovation and growth across the Liverpool City Region (LCR) by ...

[Tech giants meet disability sector to break down barriers at work - GOV.UK](#)

[GOV.UK](#)

... workplaces that truly support everyone. This is part of our wider mission to Get Britain Working – investing in employment support and working ...

[Whitbread steps up jobs scheme for young people with care backgrounds - Personnel Today](#)

[Personnel Today](#)

... careers”. Tommy McDade, Barnardo's UK head of business for employment, training and skills, said the scheme was already reaping rewards ...

[Processing delays and backlogs in Access to Work affect job security and employer finances](#)

[National Audit Office](#)

The NAO have investigated DWP's operation of the Access to Work scheme to help inform public debate on its future.

[Financial Regulation Innovation Lab launches Skills Academy to develop future fintech and ...](#)

Scottish Financial News

... development to maintain the UK's global competitiveness. Professor Stephen McArthur, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of ...

PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

[University's redundancy programme cost more than £24m - Nation.Cymru](#)

Nation.Cymru

Cardiff University Vice Chancellor Professor Wendy Larner. Photo Cardiff University. Martin Shipton. Cardiff University's controversial redundancy ...

[Unfair dismissal changes confirmed from January 2027 - Personnel Today](#)

Personnel Today

Finally, the Employment Rights Act will remove the power to vary the qualifying period further without primary legislation, the government has ...

[Hilton, Hyatt, & IHG unite to roll out historic human trafficking training for staff - HR Grapevine](#)

HR Grapevine

Rani Hammond, Senior Vice President of Global Human Resources at IHG Hotels & Resorts, said the partnership turned shared intent into action. "By ...

[GSK cutting jobs in UK and US as part of ongoing R&D changes | Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald](#)

Ardrossan & Saltcoats Herald

It is understood around 50 UK jobs so far are being cut in the group's main UK R&D hub in Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

[UK Treasury offers up to 100,000-pound exit packages to cut hundreds of jobs, FT reports](#)

Yahoo Finance UK

Work & Management ... Reuters. UK Treasury offers up to 100,000-pound exit packages to cut hundreds of jobs, FT reports. People walk past the ...

[Whiteness of green: RACE Report, representation, climate and sustainability](#)

Environmental Journal

For all sectors, 17% of people in the UK in employment identify as Black, Asian, or Minority Ethnic. In the RACE Report, only 4.7% do. However ...

[Actors help raise awareness of child exploitation in Bradford businesses - BBC News](#)

BBC

... exploitation. Police officers and social workers carried out ... EU has 'open mind' on UK customs union debate, says commissioner. 7. 'You can ...

[C-suite poses greatest AI risk to businesses, not entry-level - Personnel Today](#)

Personnel Today

La Fosse found that 78% of C-suite executives admit to using AI for work they are not trained to do. More than nine in 10 (93%) said they have made AI ...

[High street fashion chain 'shutting all 9 stores' - full list - Essex Live](#)

Essex Live

Reports suggest redundancies are coming soon as LK Bennett was bought out. Up to 89 employees face potential redundancy as the brand's outlets are ...

[Nissan Dealer Groups Become First in the UK to Earn Pride365 Certification, Championing ...](#)

Nissan

Supporting the LGBTQ+ community through charitable giving and improved recruitment and staff-survey practices. David Smith, Director and Pride365 ...

[Game closes final standalone stores as administration marks end of high street era](#)

Retail Systems

... UK high street. ... The retailer moved most staff onto zero-hour contracts in April before reducing its management team.

[ExxonMobil's Mossmorran plastics plant closes weeks early with 400 jobs lost | STV News](#)

STV News - STV Player

There are around 180 ExxonMobil staff, 200 contractors, and around 50 other workers at Mossmorran affected. Following the announcement in November, ...

[Government opens 'fire and rehire' consultation - Personnel Today](#)

Personnel Today

Hays Human Resources. Bournemouth, England; £23.0 - £27.0 per hour + £23 - 27.96 per hour via Hays. Were seeking an experienced HR Advisor / HR ...

[AXA UK launches leadership programme for broker partners - Insurance Business](#)

Insurance Business

Lauren Nixon (pictured), broker proposition manager at AXA UK Commercial, said the initiative is intended to deliver practical skills that delegates ...

[Leeds launch for ground-breaking project to help Yorkshire employers support Neurodivergent talent](#)

Yorkshire Evening Post

... employment practices. The project will focus on improving recruitment ... good work and inclusive employment. The project team will work with ...

[Quiz enters administration for third time, job losses already started - Fashion network](#)

Fashion network

We've also learned that 109 HQ and warehouse staff are losing their jobs and hundreds more are at risk. The Quiz concessions trading from UK New Look ...

[Ethnicity, poverty, and in-work inequalities in the UK | Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Entering the UK via a formal skilled worker route does not insulate migrants from labour market exploitation, with official data understating the ...

[Council to support Ricoh staff if redundancies are confirmed - Shropshire Live](#)

Shropshire Live

Through the Council-led Skills for Growth Partnership, specialist advisers are ready to work with Ricoh and any other employers entering redundancy ...

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

[Greater Manchester Police in mental health partnership | Warrington Guardian](#)

Warrington Guardian

Eleos Group, which specialises in clinically-led workplace mental health strategies, is working closely with GMP's wellbeing and leadership teams.

[Welfare 2030 enquiry launched to produce detailed blueprint for reform](#)

The Centre for Social Justice

... employment for a higher benefit income with no requirement to work at all. ... Analysis of official forecasts also shows that, on current trends, ...

[Oldham launches pilot to reduce employee sick leave](#)

Oldham Times

A workplace wellbeing pilot by Nick Rusling launches in Oldham with Upturn to tackle rising employee sickness. ... Visit <https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/ssMsCv9YmcOYowMuJSJIQ36Hh?domain=newsquest.co.uk> to view ...

[Three day paid leave for endometriosis and adenomyosis patients gets big update - MSN](#)

MSN

Measures could include part-time working, flexible hours or phased returns to work. Officials explain that the new Employment Rights Bill can ...

[New safety app for Openreach employees after surge in abuse and assaults](#)

Think Broadband

Broadband alt-net Gigaclear is likely to be taken over by its creditors, Natwest, Lloyds and the National Wealth Fund (formerly the UK Investment Bank) ...

[Northamptonshire Women's Charter urges organisations to act on workplace safety - Rayo](#)

Rayo

Kimani added: "Having employers in these industries sign the Charter is vital. ... uk, and on the Rayo app. northamptonshire · violence against ...

[E.ON backs call for fairer fertility rights at work and signs the Fertility Support Pledge](#)

E.ON News

Backed by leading charities and employer groups, the campaign encourages organisations across the UK ... Clear policy and guidance – publish ...

[Royal Borough of Greenwich leads the way as a Carer-Inclusive Workplace, encouraging ...](#)

Royal Borough of Greenwich

The Royal Borough of Greenwich has become an accredited Carer-Inclusive Workplace, strengthening the support available to council staff who ...

GENERAL

[Barnsley becomes the UK's first 'tech town' with focus on AI - SME Magazine](#)

SME Magazine

The government has named Barnsley as the UK's first "tech town" with plans to use AI to improve public services and support for businesses.

[Plan to Make Work Pay and Employment Rights Act: timeline update - GOV.UK](#)

GOV.UK

employment tribunal time limits. Measures that will take effect in December 2026. commencement of the Mandatory Seafarers' Charter. Measures that ...

[New Mayoral Development Corporations to drive regeneration across Greater Manchester](#)

Public Sector Executive

Greater Manchester's first MDC, launched in Stockport in ... in private investment, and created new employment space in the business district.

[Business and Trade Committee Sets Seven Priorities for UK Economic Revival - WiredGov](#)

WiredGov

AI, productivity and the future workforce – examining how Britain can lead the AI ... workplace protections work in practice, not just on paper.

['Decisive Action Needed' for Fair, Skilled and Innovative Work in Wales](#)

Business News Wales

These include the rise of AI and automation, an ageing workforce ... The CIPD has long supported organisations of all sizes to navigate workplace issues ...

[Clean energy funding to be tied to stronger workers' rights - WiredGov](#)

WiredGov

We look forward to the full 'Fair Work Charter' which can play a vital role boosting trade union recognition and collective bargaining. Sue Ferns ...

[Stockport's finance and professional services community invited to discuss the future of the ...](#)

Marketing Stockport

Taking place on 4th March from 8.30am, the event is delivered by GM Business Growth Hub in partnership with Stockport Council, Greater Manchester ...

[E.ON joins leading businesses to help unlock social value and community benefit as they ...](#)

E.ON News

The Commission includes E.ON UK, Barratt Redrow, Heathrow, Knight Dragon, Mitie, Pension Insurance Corporation, and VodafoneThree. These businesses ...

[Government expands regional civil service hubs through Places for Growth programme](#)

Workplace Insight

The UK Government has reaffirmed its commitment to relocating civil service roles out of London as part of its Places for Growth programme.

[Metro mayors, business leaders and universities unite in Manchester to supercharge regional growth](#)

WiredGov

During a roundtable attendees agreed on a framework to unlock long-term private investment and enhance the UK's regional competitiveness. The summit ...

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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