



RELEASE

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Pilot 'evening sessions' for Employment Tribunal hearings

Today (2 November) marks the start of a new six month initiative which will see some Employment Tribunal claims being heard during early evening sessions.

During the pilot scheme some of the more straight-forward hearings will take place just outside normal 'business hours', from around 6 to 8pm, for between one and two evenings a week.

Claims which need to be heard before a judge but do not require a tribunal panel or a full day's hearing, for example wages claims, will be scheduled for the early evening slots. The arrangement for hearing more complex tribunal cases during the day will continue as before.

Tribunals Service Chief Executive Kevin Sadler explains: "The pilot will enable people to fit the hearings in around their usual work commitments. This is a new type of initiative and highlights our commitment to listening and responding to what our users tell us works for them"

However, there are also other practical business considerations behind extending the hearing times.

Kevin Sadler adds: "Our workload has gone up considerably over the past year and the project is also about being more efficient with the resources we have at our disposal. By listing the shorter cases during the evening we will be freeing up the daytime for the more complex claims, which take longer to hear as well as making more efficient use of our buildings."

The pilot will run at the East London and Cardiff hearing centres. Once the scheme has run its course the Tribunals Service will evaluate the take up and analyse how effective it has been before making decisions about whether to extend the programme to other centres around the country.

For further information and to find out more information about the Tribunals Service visit www.tribunals.gov.uk.

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Note to editors

- The Tribunals Service provides administration and support to various tribunals throughout the UK. An executive agency of the Ministry of Justice, it was formed in 2006 to:
 - Provide responsive, efficient administration of the tribunals;
 - Promote and protect the independence of the judiciary;
 - Contribute to the improvement of the quality of decision-making across government; and
 - Reform the tribunals justice system for the benefit of its customers and the wider public.