

# Press release: New law supports all families who suffer the loss of a child

- Parents and carers will be eligible for new workplace right to paid leave when they suffer a loss of a child under 18
- employees will not have to give notice for leave immediately after a loss or need to supply a copy of a death certificate to use as evidence
- first law of its kind in the UK to support employees and give them time to grieve

Recognising that the law needs to cater for a variety of family circumstances, the government has confirmed that those who are eligible under the Parental Bereavement (Pay and Leave) Act will be widened beyond parents to all primary carers for children, including adopters, foster parents and guardians.

It will also cover more informal groups such as kinship carers, who may be a close relative or family friend and have assumed responsibility for the care of the child in the absence of the parents.

The Parental Bereavement (Pay and Leave) Act, which is expected to come into force in 2020, ensures bereaved employees who lose a child under 18 will receive 2 weeks' leave as a day-one right. Eligible employees will also receive 2 weeks statutory pay. This is the first law of its kind the UK.

Business Minister Kelly Tolhurst, said:

Dealing with the loss of a child is an awful tragedy which we recognise people will deal with differently.

It is important this new law is designed so that people are given the space and respect to grieve in their own way.

Following feedback from parents and employers, the government today (2 November 2018) published its response to the public consultation and announced further details about how the new right will work:

- leave can be taken either in 1 block (of 1 or 2 weeks) or as 2 separate blocks of 1 week
- leave and pay can be taken within a 56 week window from the child's death so as to allow time for important moments such as anniversaries
- notice requirements will be flexible so that leave can be taken without prior notice very soon after the child's death
- employers will not be entitled to request a copy of death certificate to use as evidence

Francine Bates, Chief Executive of The Lullaby Trust said:

We are very pleased that the government has listened to bereaved families and responded to their concerns in paving the way for the implementation of the new Act.

Losing a baby or child is a devastating experience for all the family and extending the provisions of the act to adopters, foster carers, guardians and kinship carers is very important. Offering time and flexibility to bereaved families at a time that best suits them is also crucial in supporting them through their journey.

Chief Executive of Cruse Bereavement Care, Steven Wibberley, said:

We are pleased that the Parental Bereavement Act has been widened to ensure that everyone who looks after a child is supported when they die.

The death of a child is incredibly traumatic and it is vital the child's family, whether it be their parents, foster parents or close family relatives who are looking after the child are given time to grieve and time to deal with some of the practical issues.

Lucy Herd from Jack's Rainbow said:

This is a great start and not having to produce a death certificate to prove that you have lost a child will have a huge positive impact on the grieving process for a parent. I would like to see an adjustment in the way this leave can be taken but hope this can be looked at in the future.

Jack's legacy is something I had always hoped would become legislation and it's fantastic knowing that this will hopefully help bereaved parents in the future.

See the [government response to the consultation](#)

The Act was introduced to parliament in July 2017 as a Private Member's Bill by Kevin Hollinrake, MP for Thirsk and Malton, with government support. It received Royal Assent on 13 September 2018.

It will give all employed parents a day-one right to 2 weeks' leave if they lose a child under the age of 18 or suffer a stillbirth from 24 weeks of pregnancy. Eligible parents will be able to claim statutory pay for this leave.

This new law honours the Conservative Party's manifesto commitment to introduce a new entitlement to parental bereavement leave.

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## Notes to editors

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## **News story: Thousands more school children receiving a nutritious breakfast**

Thousands more children across the country are now getting a healthy and nutritious start to the day at a new or improved school breakfast club, the Children and Families Minister Nadhim Zahawi has announced today.

The figures, published by Family Action, follow the investment of up to £26 million announced by the Education Secretary in March for two leading charities to run clubs to improve breakfast for pupils in more than 1,700 schools by 2020.

Since March, 500 schools have already signed up to the National School Breakfast Programme delivered by Family Action – in partnership with Magic Breakfast. Under this programme, Family Action has reported that:

- 15,000 breakfasts are already being served every day to children – many from disadvantaged families; and
- 500 new or improved breakfast clubs have signed up to the programme – with more than 150 already up and running in schools.

This programme is focused on the most disadvantaged parts of the country, including the government's 12 Opportunity Areas – which are receiving a share of £72 million to help raise education standards in areas where children face greater challenges. The government is now encouraging more schools in disadvantaged areas to join the breakfast clubs programme.

Research from the Education Endowment Foundation shows that breakfast clubs that offer pupils in primary schools a free and nutritious meal before school can boost their reading, writing and maths results. As well as providing a nutritious meal, many clubs offer children the chance to be more active and provide extra-curricular activities such as extra reading sessions to improve their learning.

Following the success of the programme to date, which is funded by the soft drinks industry levy, the government is working with the charities to encourage more schools and organisations to provide breakfast. It is part of

a wider drive to help children lead healthier lives and support the country's most disadvantaged families.

Minister for Children and Families Nadhim Zahawi said:

We want every child to have the best possible start in life, and that means getting the best possible start to their day. It's fantastic to see the positive effect that new breakfast clubs are having right across the country – particularly in our most disadvantaged areas.

We have already made strides in our attempts to help every child reach their potential, with 300,000 fewer children living in absolute poverty in this country and the attainment gap between rich and poor pupils reduced by 10 per cent, but we know there is more to do.

That's why I want to encourage schools to take part in this rewarding programme that is already providing a boost in so many of our classrooms.

Family Action and Magic Breakfast are already working with the government to help encourage more children to attend the clubs by asking schools to collaborate and share best practice.

This includes £2 million for projects to encourage children to eat a healthy breakfast, and improve the way that schools share best practice.

Today's announcement builds on Family Action's extensive range of family and school support services nationwide, and Magic Breakfast's previous partnership with the Department for Education – establishing breakfast provision in 183 schools from 2014 to 2016.

David Holmes, CBE, Chief Executive of Family Action said:

Family Action is delighted to be leading the delivery of the National School Breakfast Programme in partnership with Magic Breakfast. This is a huge opportunity to make a difference to the lives of tens of thousands of children. The progress of the programme so far has been amazing and we are so impressed with the enthusiasm of schools to take part and their eagerness to engage with our dedicated team.

We want to ensure we help as many children as possible start the day with a healthy breakfast and ready to learn, We are encouraging all eligible schools to get in touch with us as soon as possible so you can become part of the programme too.

Carmel McConnell, MBE, Founder of Magic Breakfast said:

We are really happy to work alongside Family Action and the DfE to welcome so many fantastic schools to the National School Breakfast Programme. Each school is receiving the tried and tested Magic Breakfast model of support, which we know boosts educational outcomes, and we are really keen to reach all eligible schools.

Schools tell us that the most important lessons are taught in the morning, so we are delighted that so many more children who may not have access to food at home can now eat a healthy breakfast at school to give them the energy and focus they need to be able to learn.

The National School Breakfast Programme is part of the government's drive to support an active and healthy childhood. It builds on the recent doubling of the Primary PE and Sport Premium to £320 million a year to improve PE and sport in schools, alongside the £100 million Healthy Pupils Capital Fund to improve school facilities that help young people live healthier lifestyles.

Today's announcement, and the investment of up to £26 million in breakfast clubs, builds on the Government's support for the most disadvantaged families, including £2 million invested in summer 2018 to pilot ways to ensure children get continued access to healthy meals and activities during the holidays.

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## **News story: New Industrial Strategy Council meets as membership announced**

- Full membership of the independent Industrial Strategy Council announced today by Business Secretary Greg Clark
- The Council held inaugural meeting in Number 10 where it was joined by the Prime Minister, the Chancellor and the Business Secretary
- The new body is comprised of 20 leading men and women from business, academia and civil society
- The Council will hold the government to account by monitoring its success in delivering the Industrial Strategy and its impact on the economy.

Senior individuals from business, academia and civil society complete the line-up of the Industrial Strategy Council, led by the Chief Economist of the Bank of England Andy Haldane, Business Secretary Greg Clark announced today.

A full meeting of the independent Industrial Strategy Council took place this afternoon (1 November 2018) in Number 10 where the group agreed how it will assess the government's progress on the commitments made in the modern

Industrial Strategy. The Council was joined for this inaugural meeting by the Prime Minister, the Chancellor and the Business Secretary.

Industrial Strategy Council members:

- Andy Haldane (Chair) – Chief Economist, Bank of England
- Dame Kate Barker – Commissioner of the National Infrastructure Commission and recently Chair of the Industrial Strategy Commission.
- Emma Bridgewater – Founder of Emma Bridgewater Ceramics.
- Professor Diane Coyle – Bennett Professor of Public Policy at the University of Cambridge.
- Jayne-Anne Gadhia – Ex-Chief Executive, Virgin Money. Member of the Scottish Business Taskforce.
- Christine Gaskell – Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Chair, Cheshire and Warrington.
- Rupert Harrison – Managing Director of BlackRock.
- Dame Vivian Hunt – Managing Partner UK and Ireland, McKinsey, Chair of CBI London Council.
- Dame Rotha Johnston – Chair of Northern Ireland Screen.
- Professor Juergen Maier – Chief Executive of Siemens plc.
- Sir Paul Marshall – Co-founder and Chairman, Marshall Wace LLP.
- Sir Charlie Mayfield – Chairman, John Lewis Partnership, Chair of Be the Business
- Lady Nicola Mendelsohn – Advertising executive; Vice-President for Europe, the Middle East and Africa for Facebook. Non-Executive Director of Diageo.
- Archie Norman – Chair, Marks & Spencer. Formerly Chief Executive of Asda, Chair of ITV, McKinsey Consultant and Director at GEEST, Railtrack and Kingfisher.
- Hayley Parsons – Welsh entrepreneur and investor, and Founder of GoCompare
- Roy Rickhuss – General Secretary of Community and member of the Executive Council of the General Federation of Trade Unions and the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.
- Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell – President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester and Professor of Physiology, Co-chair of the Council for Science and Technology and past President of the Royal Society of Biology
- Professor Jennifer Rubin – Executive Chair of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Professor of Public Policy at Kings College London
- Rohan Silva – Co-founder of Second Home, Senior Visiting Fellow at LSE Cities.
- Matthew Taylor – Chief Executive, Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA).

The Prime Minister Theresa May said:

Our modern Industrial Strategy is key to building a successful economy that works for everyone and creating high-quality jobs across the UK.



This Council gathers some of the most influential figures in business, academia, and civil society. Together, they will share their expertise and skills to measure the progress of our strategy and ensure it is boosting people's wages and improving productivity of British businesses.

Business Secretary Greg Clark said:

The Industrial Strategy Council has a vital role to play in holding the government to account on our progress in delivering on the ambition set out in our Industrial Strategy.

I have asked the Council to be challenging on how we evaluate our progress in preparing for the industries of the future, delivering increased productivity and high quality jobs across our economy.

I'm delighted that such prominent men and women from business, academia and civil society, representing all corners of the country, have agreed to offer their invaluable experience and insight.

Chair of the Industrial Strategy Council, Andy Haldane, said:

I look forward to working with these leading business men and women, investors, economists, and academics to provide impartial and unbiased evaluations of the government's progress in delivering on the Industrial Strategy. They will bring valuable collective insight into the challenge that the government has set for us.

At our inaugural meeting we developed our workplan that will deliver strong evaluation metrics and a programme of activity that will challenge and support this critical economic policy as it is implemented.

The Industrial Strategy, [published in November 2017](#), is backing businesses to create high-paid, highly-skilled jobs in every part of the UK and stimulate growth in the UK economy.

Plans to establish an Industrial Strategy Council followed consultation with businesses, universities and other stakeholders who proposed that the Strategy needed to have clear measures of success, and an ongoing mechanism to evaluate progress.

## **Council remit**

The remit of the Council includes reviewing the impact of the Industrial Strategy to date and its contribution to UK economic growth.

Its responsibilities include:

- Recommending a series of success measures for the implementation of the Industrial Strategy;
- Commenting on delivery against these measures and their contribution to UK economic growth;
- Commenting on ways to improve the measurement of success, particularly in terms of productivity and the better use of data across government;
- Commenting on the effectiveness of how the impact of existing programmes that contribute to the goals of the Industrial Strategy are evaluated and make recommendations about how to improve evaluation where necessary; and
- Publishing a regular public report assessing progress on implementation of the Industrial Strategy against success measures and on ways to improve measurement and evaluation.

The Council will convene at least three times a year and it will agree its annual work programme and priorities with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and HM Treasury. The Chair will meet annually with the Business Secretary and the Chancellor to discuss its work programme and progress.

The Industrial Strategy is backing businesses to create high-paid, highly-skilled jobs in every part of the UK. It is a long-term plan for jobs and growth across the country. It is creating an economy that works for everyone: highly innovative, highly skilled, and high quality, supported by low tax and smart regulation.

## **Notes to editors:**

The Industrial Strategy Council's proposed Terms of Reference that was discussed at the first meeting are:

1. The Industrial Strategy Council is an independent non-statutory advisory group set up to develop measures of success for, and assess the progress of, the government's Industrial Strategy.
  2. The Industrial Strategy Council was announced by the Industrial Strategy White Paper and is a result of the Green Paper consultation, in which many businesses, universities and other stakeholders proposed that the Industrial Strategy needs to have clear measures of success, and an ongoing mechanism to evaluate progress.
  3. The Industrial Strategy Council will work closely with relevant government Departments, their agencies and other advisory committees to ensure that the IS Council's work programme does not overlap with their work. Its scope does not include commenting on fiscal policy or tax measures or making public policy recommendations to Government.
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# News story: Statment on the Moscow Mechanism to the OSCE Permanent Council

Mr. Chairman,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the following delegations: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

On August 30, we informed the Permanent Council about a letter we sent to the Russian delegation to request concrete information under the OSCE Vienna (Human Dimension) Mechanism due to our concerns about credible reports of human rights violations and abuses in Chechnya. The letter of September 4 that we received in response unfortunately did not provide a substantive response to our questions.

This has only deepened our concern that the Russian Federation is unwilling or unable to address the reports of serious human rights violations and abuses, which contributes to a climate of impunity for authorities in Chechnya. We believe that the reported violations and abuses reflect a particularly serious threat to the fulfilment of the provisions of the OSCE human dimension. We therefore are invoking paragraph 12 of the 1991 Moscow Document of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the OSCE (Moscow Mechanism) to establish a mission of experts to address the concerns outlined in our August 30 letter. Those concerns centered around allegations of impunity for reported human rights violations and abuses in Chechnya from January 2017 to the present, including, but not limited to, violations and abuses against persons based on their perceived or actual sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as against human rights defenders, lawyers, independent media, civil society organizations, and others. Among the reported human rights violations and abuses were: allegations of harassment and persecution; arbitrary or unlawful arrests or detentions; torture; enforced disappearances; and extrajudicial executions.

In addition to establishing the facts and reporting on them, we encourage the mission of experts to give advice to the Russian Federation, to the OSCE, and to the international community on possible solutions to the questions raised.

We look forward to working with ODIHR and the Russian delegation in the coming days on arrangements for the mission. An expert mission, one member of which may, in accordance with paragraph 10 of the Moscow Document, be chosen by the government of the Russian Federation, should be able to give an objective and unbiased report and recommendations on these issues.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.