

REDUNDANCY PROCEDURE

This procedure should be read in conjunction with: Employee Relations Appeals Procedure

1. INTRODUCTION

We recognise the contribution of our staff towards the achievement of our strategic ambitions set out in our corporate strategy.

We recognise the importance of employment security and we will seek to avoid redundancy situations wherever possible. Where redundancy is unavoidable, we will always do our best to mitigate the impact on individuals.

Consultation with our recognised trade unions and individuals is imperative to the effective management and implementation of redundancy situations and we committed to ensuring that our consultations are meaningful throughout the process in line with our principles for partnership working.

The University is responsible for the total cost of the redundancy, including the redundancy payment to the individual as well as any potential strain on the fund costs to pension organisations.

2. OBJECTIVES OF PROCEDURE

The objectives of this procedure are to ensure that we:

- manage redundancy situations fairly, transparently and in accordance with the legal framework;
- have robust, meaningful consultation and involvement with our recognised trade union representatives at the earliest point possible, in accordance with our arrangements for partnership working;
- seek to mitigate/minimise any adverse impact on our staff who are within a redundancy situation;
- treat people who are affected by a redundancy situation with consideration and respect.

3. DEFINITION OF REDUNDANCY

For the purpose of this procedure, redundancy is defined in accordance with Section 139 of the Employment Rights Act 1996.

4. REDUNDANCY PROCEDURE

4.1 Phase 1 - Redundancy Planning & Development of Initial Business Case

Planning for potential redundancy situation is key, it will ensure that the University satisfies our legal obligations and that we treat people affected fairly and respectfully.

Where a situation arises that could potentially result in redundancy, the Dean/Director or nominated depute, supported by the HR Business Partner will consult with our recognised trades unions and affected individuals as early as possible to allow input, feedback and comments on the situation.

4.1.1 Avoidance of Redundancy or Minimise the Impact

We are committed to avoiding redundancy or minimising the impact on individuals and the University at a whole. The Dean/Director or nominated depute will in consultation with our recognised trade unions, consider all reasonable measures to avoid redundancy and/or to minimise the impact on affected staff.

4.1.2 Identify individuals affected and Determine the selection pool

The Dean/Director or nominated depute, supported by the HR Business Partner will identify how many roles are at risk of redundancy and will determine a pool from which individuals will be selected for redundancy.

We will ensure that the pool for selection has been fairly defined. The pool will normally consist of employees who carry out the same, or similar work. When determining the redundancy pool the Dean/Director will take into account circumstances such as:

- the work that employees carry out on a day-to-day basis;
- the proximity of campuses; and
- where individuals carry out their work on a regular basis.

Where it is necessary to declare all posts of a given type redundant, or where there is only one person whose role is affected, all individuals in that category will be identified as at risk of redundancy and as such, there is no requirement to determine a pool.

Where selective redundancies apply, for example, the number of jobs of a particular kind have reduced, a selection criteria will apply.

4.1.3 Determine a Fair Selection Criteria/Process

To support a fair and transparent process, in situations where redundancy is possible, the HR Business Partner and the Dean/Director or nominated depute will consult with our recognised trade unions on determining a fair selection criteria/process. A full Equality Impact Assessment will be carried on the selection criteria/process

4.1.4 Develop a detailed consultation and communication plan

The Dean/Director or, supported by the HR Business Partner and in conjunction with our trade union representatives should develop a detailed consultation and communication plan.

The consultation and communication plan must take into account the University's statutory obligations for collective consultation if the proposals are to dismiss by reason of redundancy 20 people or more. The HR Business Partner will cross refer any other potential redundancy situations across the University to ensure we meet our statutory obligations.

4.1.5 Announcing the Redundancy

Following the redundancy planning stage, where appropriate, the Dean/Director must submit their initial business case to the Vice Chancellor's Executive Group for approval. The initial business case will include a full equality impact assessment on the proposals and will be submitted to the Partnership Forum for information.

Where the redundancy situation is as a result of the termination of a fixed term contract, VCEG approval is not required and must be approved by the Dean/Director and supported by the Director of People and Organisational Development.

The Dean/Director or nominated depute will announce the redundancy situation to affected staff.

4.1.6 Application of Selection criteria/process

If appropriate to the redundancy situation, the procedure for selecting individuals for redundancy will be undertaken. The line manager, supported by the HR Business Partner will then carry out the assessment of each individual against the agreed selection criteria/process and a score will be established.

The selection process will be objective as possible and will be consistently applied. Scoring will be supported by available evidence.

The line manager, supported by the HR Business Partner will normally meet with the individual to communicate the outcome of the selection process. Individuals will also be provided with a copy of their redundancy score according to the criteria.

Individuals identified as being at risk of redundancy will be notified in writing and placed on the Redeployment Register.

Individuals will have the right of appeal against the selection for redundancy and the appeal should be logged within 5 working days of the notification that they have been placed on the redeployment register.

4.2 Phase 2 - Consultation and Communication

We are fully committed to ensuring that consultation will be established as soon as practical for all concerned with the view of sharing the challenges and exploring all options. Consultation will be meaningful and our communications will be transparent whereby staff affected by potential redundancy situations have a fair opportunity to raise concerns and ideas or alternative solutions.

4.2.1 Statutory Collective Consultation & Notification

If the proposals are to dismiss as redundant 20 or more staff, the Dean/Director will ensure that the process satisfies at least the minimum statutory consultation periods as defined by the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 as follows:

- 20 – 99 redundancies –must start at least 30 days before any dismissals take effect
- 100 or more redundancies –must start at least 45 days before any dismissals take effect

The consultation period will start on the date that affected employees and their representatives have been provided, in writing, with the following information confirming that they are risk of redundancy and:

- Reasons for the proposed redundancies
- Numbers and descriptions of employees occupying posts at risk
- Criteria for selecting employees for redundancy
- Timescale for dismissals
- Method of calculating redundancy payments to affected staff.

4.2.2 Statutory Notification

In accordance with our statutory obligations, the Department of People & OD will notify the Redundancy Payments Service by submitting the HR 1 Form within the required timescales. The recognised trade unions regional and branch offices will also be provided with a copy of the HR 1 Form.

4.2.3 Non Statutory Consultation & Notification

Where fewer than 20 employees are at risk of redundancy there is no legal minimum period of consultation, however, in support of our principles for partnership working, we will ensure that the minimum statutory consultation period is applied and that there is meaningful consultation with our recognised trade unions and with affected staff.

The line manager will confirm in writing that the individual is at risk of redundancy and where appropriate:

- Reasons for the proposed redundancies
- Numbers and descriptions of employees occupying posts at risk
- Criteria for selecting employees for redundancy

- Timescale for dismissals
- Method of calculating redundancy payments to affected staff.

4.2.4 **Individual Consultation**

Whether a collective or individual redundancy the manager and HR Business Partner will arrange individual meetings with everyone affected to discuss the implications of the proposals. Individuals have the right to be accompanied at these meetings and will make every effort to attend this meeting and any follow-up meetings.

The purpose of the meeting(s) will be to explain:

- the proposed changes in staffing and the reasons for them;
- the proposed timetable;
- the procedure and how it will be implemented;
- that they have the right of appeal

and to seek:

- the views of the individual with respect any practical means of mitigating or avoiding the redundancy, and with regard to future employment, retraining or redeployment.

There will normally be two individual consultation meetings, however, this will be dependent on the circumstances and complexity of the redundancy situation.

4.3 **Phase 3 - Implementation**

After consideration of feedback on the proposals via the consultation process, the Dean/Director will finalise the proposal and obtain, as appropriate, any further approval from VCEG if necessary. The final proposal will be shared with the recognised trade union representatives and affected individuals.

If there is no other option and compulsory redundancy is inevitable, the affected individuals will be dismissed by reason of redundancy. The Dean/Director supported by the HR Business Partner will meet with the individual to confirm the outcome, their redundancy payment and the effective date of the redundancy. They will also advise the individual of their right of appeal and what support that is available to them.

The Dean/Director, supported by the HR Business Partner will continue to seek suitable alternative employment for the individual throughout the contracted notice period. This will be confirmed in writing.

Individuals identified as being redundant will remain on the Redeployment Register until they secure an alternative role or duration of their contractual notice period.

5. **SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT & RELEASE OF EMPLOYEES**

Notwithstanding our legal obligation to look for Suitable Alternative Employment (SAE) for an employee at risk of redundancy, we are absolutely committed to retaining the skills and experiences within the University.

The manager, supported by the HR Business Partner will seek to find suitable alternative employment for individuals who are under notice of redundancy and will provide them with sufficient information to enable them to decide whether to accept any offer.

Individuals facing redundancy are expected to play an active role in identifying suitable alternative posts. They will, for example, be expected to familiarise themselves with vacancies that are notified to them and to make themselves aware of vacancies placed on the University website, and to apply

for them as appropriate. Where employees are prepared to accept a lower graded post, or are prepared to accept part time employment, they should inform their HR Business Partner at an early stage.

Where alternative work is offered and accepted a 4 week trial period will apply, this period may be extended for any necessary training. Entitlement to a redundancy payment will still apply if the individual or the University decides the trial period is not successful.

Where alternative employment is offered and accepted as an alternative to redundancy, and the salary of the new post is less, preservation of basic salary will apply and the individual's salary will be protected for 12 months, which will commence on the date they are transferred into the new post.

Where an individual unreasonably refuses an offer of suitable alternative employment he/she may lose any entitlement to redundancy pay.

Individuals under notice of redundancy are entitled to reasonable time off to seek other employment or to arrange training, such time off to be agreed with the line manager, in conjunction with the HR Business Partner.

Individuals who have been formally notified of their redundancy and for whom no suitable alternative position is available may, if they obtain other employment, be released by the University at a mutually agreeable date. The revised date will become the date of redundancy for the purpose of calculating any entitlement to a redundancy payment.

6. ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

We recognise that it can be a difficult and stressful time for individuals who are facing redundancy and we are committed to supporting people as best as we can throughout the redundancy process. We recognise that individuals facing redundancy will be at different stages in their life and career and that it will impact on them in different ways.

With this in mind, we will seek to provide a tailored approach to individuals which may include:

- CV preparation
- Interview skills
- Career coaching
- Financial planning (potential access to pension)

7. REDUNDANCY PAYMENT

To qualify for any redundancy payment, staff must have a minimum of 2 years continuous service.

Individuals made redundant under this procedure will receive the statutory redundancy payment as follows

- For service at ages 41 and over: three week's pay per complete year of service
- For service at ages 22 – 40 inclusive: two week's pay per complete year of service
- For service at ages 18 – 21 inclusive: one week's pay per complete year of service

The maximum length of service which can be taken into account in the calculation of a redundancy payment is 20 years.

The statutory limit of a week's pay will be used to calculate redundancy payment. The payment is calculated by working backwards from the date of redundancy, calculating the number of complete years of continuous service which fall in the period.

8. NOTICE OF DISMISSAL

Individuals dismissed on the grounds of redundancy are entitled to receive their contractual notice period.

Individuals are normally expected to work their notice periods, but the manager, in conjunction with the HR Business Partner may agree to a payment in lieu of notice or put the individual on garden leave depending on the circumstances of the redundancy.

9. APPEALS PROCEDURE

Individuals have a right to appeal against the decision to dismiss them by reason of redundancy and the Employee Relations Appeals Procedure should be initiated.

Procedure Author – Employee Relations & Performance Advisor	Procedure Owner – Director of People & OD
Parent Policy Statement - People & OD	Public Access or Staff Only Access - Public
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