

Time-off for Emergency Volunteers

Introduction

On Tuesday 24th March 2020, the Health Secretary Matt Hancock asked for 250,000 Emergency Volunteers.

In Schedule 6 of the Coronavirus Bill which is being passed through Parliament, there are provisions for employers to give staff time off for emergency volunteering.

Who is eligible?

Employees who work for a business with more than 10 employees.

What is the entitlement?

Employees must submit their request for time off in writing to their line manager not less than three days before they want their volunteering to commence. This request will need to be accompanied by an Emergency Volunteering Certificate.

We currently believe that employers will have to grant the time off unless they have a very good reason to reject the request i.e. the business or the role is critical to the infrastructure of the country or to the support of the NHS.

Employees will be able to request a block of 2, 3 or 4 weeks of unpaid leave in any 16 week period.

24/3/2020

The information provided in this document is for guidance purposes only and you are advised to seek professional advice. The situation with the Coronavirus is constantly changing and you should be aware of this when managing staff within your business. Our website will be updated regularly at <https://dohr.co.uk/covid-19/>

If you need any assistance with any of the issues raised in this document, please email us using support@dohr.co.uk
Please be aware that a fee may be charged if you are not a DOHR retained client.