

# **SOMERCOTES PARISH COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL LEAVE POLICY | NOV 2024**

## **1. Annual Leave Entitlement**

- a. Your paid leave entitlement is set out in your contract of employment. The basic leave entitlement for a full-time staff member is 28 days per annum in addition to 8 Bank holidays. Part-time employees receive a pro-rated entitlement according to their hours of work.

## **2. Working Part-Time**

- a. If your entitlement to Bank Holidays exceeds the number of days that fall on your normal working days (typically because you don't work on Mondays), you will be able to take the excess as leave.
- b. If your entitlement to Bank Holidays is less than the number of Bank Holidays that fall on your normal working days (typically because your normal working days include Mondays), then you can make up the difference by using your leave entitlement.
- c. With agreement from the clerk (or the council in the case of the clerk), you may be able to work additional hours to make up the deficit or take unpaid leave.

## **3. Variable hours workers**

- a. Statutory minimum holiday entitlement is based on 5.6 weeks of holiday per holiday year, including bank and public holidays. [Any holiday entitlement over and above 5.6 weeks will be pro-rated based on hours, days, and weeks worked].
- b. Where variable hours are worked, the actual weekly holiday entitlement will be calculated on a pro-rata basis depending on the average number of hours worked per week, over a 52-week reference period, excluding any weeks when no work has been undertaken.

## **4. Leave year**

- a. The leave year runs from 1st April to 31st March. It is your responsibility to manage your leave in such a way that you can take it all during the leave year. Your annual leave entitlement will be pro-rated in your first and last year of employment with the council.

## **5. Carrying over leave**

- a. Except in the very rare circumstances of a booked and agreed period of leave being cancelled at the council's request, it is not possible to carry over unused days of leave from one leave year to the next, nor will any payment be made for leave unused at the end of a leave year. Thus, leave untaken at the end of a leave year is lost.

## **6. Requesting leave**

- a. You should request leave from the clerk (or the council in the case of the clerk), with as much notice as possible. This will allow the council to plan workloads. Before granting leave we will consider:
  - i. The team's workload,
  - ii. The need for office or team cover, and,
  - iii. Whether other staff have or are likely to ask for the same time off (e.g. a popular holiday time).
- b. The clerk/council will balance your needs against the needs of other staff before agreeing to leave. If you take leave without such permission, it will be treated as an unauthorised absence and dealt with under the Disciplinary Procedure.

## **7. Sickness during leave**

- a. If you become ill during a period of paid annual leave, you must comply with the requirements of the sickness reporting and certification procedure if you wish to have this sickness period discounted from the period of paid leave taken.
- b. It is important that you contact the Clerk (or the Council in the case of the Clerk), on the first day of sickness and keep the council up to date during the period of sickness.

## **8. Payment of annual leave**

- a. Holiday pay is calculated on the basis of your current rate of pay. Where you work variable hours or if you receive commission payments/overtime/travelling-time allowance, then a day's pay will be calculated on the average pay in the previous 52 weeks.
- b. The council does not offer payment in lieu of leave entitlement unless you are leaving the council and have not taken leave entitlement that you have accrued at the time of leaving.

## **9. Payment in lieu**

- a. The council does not offer payment in lieu of leave entitlement unless you are leaving the council and have not taken leave entitlement that you have accrued at the time of leaving.

- b. If you leave during the course of a leave year, and cannot take any outstanding accrued leave before your last day, you will receive a payment in lieu of any outstanding accrued leave. In such a case, a calculation will be made of the amount of paid leave due to you, on a pro rata basis, for that part of the leave year up to the date of termination of the contract. Holiday pay will be based on your current rate of pay including any regular overtime.
- c. If, however, you have taken more paid leave than is due by this calculation, then a deduction will be made from your salary payments for an amount at your basic daily rate for the days in question. Such a deduction will be deemed to be a contractually authorised deduction.
- d. This is a non-contractual procedure which will be reviewed from time to time.

## **NOTES:**

### **10. Annual leave entitlement**

- a. The statutory minimum leave entitlement for full-time workers is 5.6 weeks (20 days in addition to 8 Bank Holidays). This should be pro-rated for part-time workers. If your clerk works three full days a week, their entitlement will be 3/5ths of the full-time entitlement (i.e. 12 days leave in addition to 4.8 days Bank Holidays).

### **11. Public and Extra Statutory Holidays**

- a. Employees required to work on a public or extra statutory holiday shall, in addition to the normal pay for that day, be paid at plain time rate for all hours worked within their normal working hours for that day. In addition, at a later date, time off with pay shall be allowed as follows:
  - i. Time worked less than half the normal working hours on that day — half day
  - ii. Time worked more than half the normal Working hours on that day — full day
  - iii. Carrying over leave
- b. It is important that staff take their statutory annual leave in order to ensure the council complies with working time legislation. The council has a responsibility to support staff to take their annual leave. If the council offers leave entitlement in excess of the statutory minimum, you may wish to allow staff to carry over unused entitlement from one year to the next. The following text can therefore replace the relevant section above.

- c. Where it has not been possible to take all your leave in the current leave year, and only with prior consent from the clerk (or the council in the case of the clerk), you will be permitted to carry forward up to 5 days leave. This must be taken within the first two months of the new leave year.

## **12. Rolled-up holiday pay**

- a. It is not permissible to "roll-up" holiday pay into basic pay, i.e. pay an employee a higher hourly, daily or weekly wage, part of which is designated as holiday pay, with the result that, when the employee goes on leave, they receive no pay.

## **13. No normal working hours**

- a. If an employee does not have normal working hours, for example, if the amount of work fluctuates from week to week, then the amount payable during statutory annual leave must be calculated as an average of the employee's actual pay during the 52 weeks that preceded the start of the leave period, excluding any weeks the employee has not worked. If, during the preceding 52 weeks, there was one or more weeks during which the employee did no work (and hence received no pay), that week must be discounted and an earlier week counted instead (limited to a maximum reference period of 2 years).
- b. For those not working all year round (casual/term-time/seasonal), recent case law has concluded that the holiday entitlement should be calculated based on the minimum 5.6 weeks statutory entitlement. A week is based on average hours worked over a 52 week period prior to the leave, and the entitlement will be 5.6 weeks holiday based the average week.

## **14. Religious festivals**

- a. Refusal of annual leave on a day that has religious significance for a particular employee may amount to indirect discrimination under legislation.