



Extra holidays announced

The statutory holiday entitlement is to be increased by eight days. However, the additional days will be introduced in two parts. Entitlement will increase by four days on 1 October 2007, giving a total entitlement of 24 days a year. The further increase of four days will not be until 1 April 2009, giving a total entitlement of 28 days. All the increases are pro-rata for part-time staff, regardless of whether or not they usually work on bank holidays.

Regulations currently before Parliament would also allow for payment in lieu of the first increase until 1 April 2009, and would exempt employers who already give 28 days' holiday a year on 1 October 2007 from the regulations, subject to certain conditions.

The additional entitlement can include bank and public holidays, so workers receiving 20 days' leave plus bank and public holidays will not see their entitlement rise.

The increases will be calculated proportionally depending on when a worker's leave year starts. For example, workers who work five days a week whose leave year begins in April and who currently receive 20 days' leave a year will be entitled to two additional days from October 2007 to March 2008. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) will be setting up an online calculator to help people work out their holiday entitlement.