

# Joint statement on the revision of the Posting of Workers Directive

Joint statement by European Parliament Co-Rapporteurs Elisabeth Morin-Chartier and Agnes Jongerius, Bulgarian Deputy Minister for Labour and Social Policy Zornitsa Roussinova and Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility Marianne Thyssen on the revision of the Posting of Workers Directive:

*After intensive negotiations this evening we, the negotiators on behalf of the European Parliament, the Council and Commission, are satisfied to have covered all issues during the 7th trilogue meeting. We reached a common understanding on the contours of a possible agreement on the revision of the Posting of Workers Directive. We believe that the proposed package agreement on the table is balanced. The possible agreement establishes the principle of equal pay for equal work on the same place, whilst providing more legal certainty for both workers and employers.*

*We will now present the results of our negotiations within our respective institutions and will do our utmost to secure the mandates necessary for the final conclusion.*

*We will hold a joint press point on 1 March 2018 at 10 AM in the Justus Lipsius press room.*

---

## Shopping for an EU Agreement

When I go shopping I do not put cash on the counter and then ask what the shop might have that I would like in return for my money. I ask to see the goods, enquire about the price and then decide whether to buy. I only produce the money when we have agreed the whole transaction, and as the shop releases the goods.

The EU wants the UK to shop the wrong way round. They expect us to put up a lot of money without telling us what it buys, and then keeping us in the dark for too long about whether we might get anything for the cash. They have invented a rule that they cannot reach an Agreement with us on our Future Partnership until we have left, which is most unhelpful and does not seem to be based on the strict letter of Treaty law.

Looking at the draft Withdrawal Agreement it is difficult to see why we would want to sign that, and certainly not without knowing what if any Free Trade Agreement will be reached. It will need considerable amendment, especially over the borders and freedom of movement issues. As it commits us to making a

large financial contribution it must not be signed before we have an Agreement on all matters which is fairer to the UK than this one sided interim production.

---

## **Press release: Latest technology supports new mums to breastfeed**

Almost three-quarters of women start breastfeeding when their child is born, however by 6 to 8 weeks this drops to just 44%. This makes breastfeeding rates in England among the lowest in the world.

A new survey of 1,000 mothers of young children commissioned by Public Health England (PHE) revealed that in hindsight, mothers wished they had been better prepared for breastfeeding. Before the birth of their first child, mums' biggest priorities were:

- buying baby equipment (66%)
- preparing for labour (49%)
- buying baby clothes (40%)

However, post birth, nearly a quarter (24%) wished they had read about and were more prepared for breastfeeding and 1 in 4 (26%) of those who had given breast milk to their first child wished they had known that asking for help can make a real difference.

Evidence shows the right support helps mothers to breastfeed for longer. PHE's programme Start4Life has created the Breastfeeding Friend to encourage parents to adopt healthy behaviours. It is available for free on a range of platforms, including Facebook Messenger, and now for the first time it will also be available as a skill for Amazon Alexa's voice service.

Mothers can ask Alexa a variety of questions about breastfeeding and the answers will be provided tailored to the age of the baby. This means that they can get helpful advice even when their hands are full.

The survey also highlighted that almost a third (31%) of mothers also felt embarrassed about asking for help with breastfeeding from healthcare professionals. Many mothers can find breastfeeding challenging and often this may cause them to give up.

It also found that almost two thirds (64%) felt that access to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week breastfeeding support, such as a phonenumber, website or chatbot, would make new mothers:

- more likely to have a positive experience of breastfeeding
- more likely to decide to try breastfeeding (59%)

- breastfeed for longer (58%)

PHE recommends exclusive breastfeeding for around the first 6 months. Breastfeeding boosts a baby's ability to fight illness and infection, and babies who are not breastfed are more likely to get diarrhoea and chest infections. Breastfeeding also lowers a mother's risk of breast cancer and may reduce the risk of ovarian cancer.

Viv Bennett, Chief Nurse at Public Health England said:

Breastfeeding, whilst natural, is something that mothers and babies learn together, and whilst learning, women may have questions and setbacks. PHE is working with health professionals to make sure women are not embarrassed and receive timely help. Health professionals do an excellent job of caring for new mothers, but they cannot be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, which is where our Breastfeeding Friend from Start4Life is designed to help. This tool, together with the range of support materials from Start4Life, can provide breastfeeding advice at any time of night or day and support mothers and their partners and families through challenges they may face.

These digital offerings will help guide new parents through their first weeks of breastfeeding and beyond, providing help at any time of the day or night, and aim to complement support and advice from health care professionals and breastfeeding specialists. The information provided by all the Start4Life services is NHS approved and both services are independent of Amazon and Facebook.

Dr Cheryll Adams CBE, Executive Director Institute of Health Visiting, says:

This innovative new service will enhance those already provided by health professionals. Whether a mother manages to establish breastfeeding is largely determinant on the support she receives in the first few days after birth. However, with such short hospital stays, professional support is not as widely available as it once was. To have this back up, which can be accessed from anywhere, will be hugely helpful and we expect health visitors to want to promote the service.

Justine Roberts, CEO and Founder of Mumsnet, says:

Breastfeeding is a hard-won skill for many women, and most mothers will experience a setback along the way, particularly in the first few weeks. We see from conversations on Mumsnet that mothers are looking for breastfeeding support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and in fact middle of the night crises when face-to-face help isn't available can be the most profoundly lonely and difficult. These

new round-the-clock digital services could provide help when mothers need it most.

More information, advice and tips on breastfeeding is available on the [Start4Life website](#).

## Background

1 – Once Breastfeeding Friend from Start4Life is enabled from the Alexa app, users can activate the skill on their Alexa by using the wake word 'Alexa' and asking for the 'Breastfeeding Friend'. A 'card' will be sent to the user's Alexa app showing some of the most common questions the Breastfeeding Friend can answer. Users can access quick tips or advice, and ask Alexa a variety of questions about breastfeeding. The answers will be provided tailored to the age of the baby. The 24 hours a day, 7 days a week Breastfeeding Friend from Start4Life aims to make it simple and easy for breastfeeding mums to ask for help if they are facing any breastfeeding difficulties.

2 – In addition to the Breastfeeding Friend from Start4Life there are many other ways that mothers can get breastfeeding support. The [Start4Life website](#) has a range of advice and resources which can help mothers continue breastfeeding. Mothers can also call a national helpline (0300 100 0212) provided by the Breastfeeding Network 365 days a year. Mothers can also get help through:

- friends and family
- their Midwifery team
- their health visitor
- local breastfeeding drop-in services

3 – The survey was conducted by Kantar Public from 26 January to 7 February 2018 with a nationally representative sample of 1005 mothers in England with children under the age of 4, on behalf of PHE. The data were weighted to population statistics based on age of mum, region and socio-economic group. Findings show:

- of those who ever gave breastmilk to their first child, younger mums were more likely than older mums to use online sources (42% of 18 to 34 years compared to 30% of 35 to 50 years) when researching or starting to breastfeed
- of mums who breastfed their first child, a quarter wished they'd known it can take a long time, but it's quality time to spend with their baby (25%) and there is lots of help and support available from breastfeeding groups, other parents and online (24%)
- 1 in 4 (26%) mums felt using more online/digital tools and information would have helped them to be more prepared for becoming a mum
- in hindsight, mums wished their main priorities before the birth of their first child had been preparing for labour (33%), spending time with friends and family (26%), reading about and preparing for breastfeeding (24%) and preparing for night feeds (22%)

4 – Sometimes breastfeeding isn't possible for a range of reasons. If this is the case, in terms of liquids babies should only be given infant formula milk for the first 12 months and no other types of milk.

5 – Start4Life's Information Service for Parents and [Start4Life website](#) offers NHS information and advice for parents-to-be and parents of 0 to 5 year olds providing them with the advice they need to help get their child off to the best start in life.

6 – The Department of Health is also supporting Unicef UK to develop a neonatal infant feeding network to support sick and preterm babies.

7 – PHE exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. It does this through world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services.

## **freuds**

Email

[start4life@freuds.com](mailto:start4life@freuds.com)

Telephone

020 3003 6399

---

## **Missing man in Chai Wan located**

A man who went missing in Chai Wan has been located.

Chung Sing-tak, aged 85, went missing after he left his residence on Siu Sai Wan Road on February 27 afternoon. His family made a report to Police yesterday (February 28).

Police located the man on Tsing King Road in Tsing Yi last night.

---

## **Thursday 8 March 2018: EU Mayors' Conference on "Building Urban Defences**

# Against Terrorism” in Brussels

## **The news:**

On 8 March, the European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions are jointly organising the EU Mayors’ Conference on “Building Urban Defences Against Terrorism: Lessons Learned From Recent Attacks”. The conference will focus on lessons learned from recent terrorist attacks and the sharing of best practices and useful solutions to enhance the protection of public spaces, including the implementation of “security by design” solutions. Participants will also discuss measures to enhance the prevention of radicalisation at local level, public-private cooperation – building on the recently established Operators Forum – as well as funding opportunities under the different EU financial instruments.

## **The background:**

Delivering on the [EU Action Plan to support the protection of public spaces](#), presented by the Commission in October 2017, the conference will gather mayors and representatives from a number of European cities, together with national policy makers representatives from networks of cities and members of the Committee of the Regions Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX). As a follow up to the [Nice Declaration](#) of 29 September 2017, the conference will draw lessons from recent attacks and identify good practices emerging in cities across Europe.

## **The event:**

The conference is taking place at the European Committee of the Regions in Brussels. Journalists are invited to attend the opening session from 9:00-9:45, including the opening speeches by Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris **Avramopoulos**, Commissioner for the Security Union Julian **King**, Mr. Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the Committee of the Regions and Mr Christian Estrosi, the Mayor of Nice. Closing remarks will be delivered by Commissioner for Regional Policy Corina **Crețu** and Commissioner Julian King at 16:45, and will also be open to journalists.

The agenda of the conference and registration details can be found here: <https://eumayorsconference.eu>

## **The sources:**

[Registration for the EU Mayors’ Conference](#)

[EU Action Plan to support the protection of public spaces](#)

[13<sup>th</sup> Security Union Progress Report](#)