

Boost for carers who will receive new unpaid leave entitlement under government-backed law

- new laws introduced entitling unpaid carers to 1 week of unpaid leave a year to support those most in need
- eligible employees will be able to take Carer's Leave regardless of how long they have worked for their employer

Millions of people across the UK who are currently providing unpaid care to dependant family members or friends will be entitled to unpaid leave under new laws backed by the government today (Friday 21 October).

Around 2 million of those providing unpaid care are thought to be doing so while balancing work alongside their caring responsibilities. With no dedicated statutory leave entitlement for these informal carers currently in place, many have to resort to taking other forms of leave to ensure they can care for those dependent on them.

The Carer's Leave Bill, introduced by Wendy Chamberlain MP and backed by the government, will introduce a new and highly flexible entitlement of one week's unpaid leave per year for employees who are providing or arranging care.

Carer's Leave will be available to eligible employees from the first day of their employment, meaning unpaid carers will be supported regardless of how long they've worked with their employer. Staff will be able to take the leave flexibly to suit their caring responsibilities and will not need to provide evidence of how the leave is used or who it will be used for, ensuring a smoother process for both businesses and their employees.

Business Minister Dean Russell said:

Carers play a vital role in our society, and it is only right that we support them so they can balance their caring responsibilities with their working life.

These reforms will not only better the lives of millions of unpaid carers across the UK, but also the friends and family that are dependent on their compassion every day.

Employees taking their carer's leave entitlement will be subject to the same employment protections that are associated with other forms of family related leave, meaning they will be protected from dismissal or any detriment as a result of having taken time off.

By making it easier for people to support their loved ones, employers are likely to benefit from less staff turnover and a reduction in recruitment and training costs by retaining employees who previously would have been unable to balance their caring responsibilities and working life.

Wendy Chamberlain MP for North East Fife said:

I am delighted that my Carers Leave Bill has passed its second reading today. When passed this will give millions of carers employments rights for the first time ever. It is a landmark change in how businesses support their employees.

I want to thank the carers and businesses who have spoken to me in support of Carers Leave. It is clear that this policy is a win-win. Carers, without whom our society wouldn't function, are supported to better balance work and home without burning out; and businesses have happier, more motivated workers with higher retention rates.

Helen Walker, Carers UK Chief Executive said:

We are thrilled that the government has supported the Carer's Leave Bill at its successful second reading. Having worked to support carers in employment for years, Carers UK's evidence shows Carer's Leave would make a significant difference to unpaid carers' lives, helping them stay in work and improving wellbeing by giving time off to attend appointments, arrange or provide care. As well as supporting families, it also makes business sense, helping retain skilled employees.

Today's reforms form part of the government's wider efforts to ensure more people stay in work with more employees on payrolls than ever before – and with unemployment at an all-time low.

The [government consulted on proposals for a Carer's Leave Bill in 2020](#), with a response to the consultation being published in September 2021.

[See full details of the Carer's Leave Bill.](#)

This bill amends or inserts new provisions into the Employment Rights Act 1996.

[More information about Carer's allowance.](#)

[UK supports new UN sanctions in Haiti](#)

Press release

The UK announces support for a new UN sanctions regime in Haiti.



On 21 November 2022, the UN established a new sanctions regime in Haiti in UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution 2653 (2022), adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. The new UN sanctions regime has been set up to tackle the issues threatening the peace, stability and security of Haiti. We strongly support this UN action that moves Haiti closer to security and stability with a return to democratic processes as soon as possible.

The UNSC has added Jimmy Cherizier, one of Haiti's most notorious gang leaders and leader of an alliance of Haitian gangs known as the "G9 Family and Allies" to the list of individuals and entities subject to the assets freeze, travel ban, and arms embargo set out in Security Council resolution 2653 (2022).

The UK strongly supports the introduction of a new UN Sanctions regime that will help to tackle the violence and insecurity in Haiti, which worsens wider challenges faced by the Haitian population. The listing of Cherizier is a positive development for the security and stability of Haiti and the Caribbean region. He will be denied access to external funding and assets, significantly reducing his ability to operate.

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[FCDO Head of Latin America Department](#)

James Dauris' travel to Guatemala

Deputy Director Dauris will meet with Guatemalan Government Officials, private sector leaders, and broader civil society groups. The Deputy Director's trip underscores the UK's strong commitment to the UK-Guatemala solid relationship.

At meetings with Guatemalan government officials, he will discuss shared priorities on a host of issues, including Ukraine, climate change, human rights, transparency and economic prosperity.

On Ukraine, Deputy Director Dauris will discuss the devastating impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on food and energy prices, while commending Guatemala's own leadership in deploring Russia's actions, and commitment to engaging multilaterally to end this war.

He will urge Guatemala to continue showing ambition in the fight against climate change. These plans will complement the UK's investment of US\$20 million in Mesoamerica, including Guatemala, through the Biodiverse Landscapes Fund, to reduce poverty and create climate resilience from 2023.

Deputy Director Dauris will also encourage Guatemala to seize the opportunities of the UK-Central America Association Agreement, while stressing the need for continued Guatemalan efforts to tackle corruption and improve the business environment.

With the private sector, the Deputy Director will discuss the challenges and opportunities of the global economic environment and strategies to support the long-term development objectives of the Guatemalan economy, including those that have been negatively hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At meetings with civil society groups, Deputy Director Dauris will stress the unequivocal UK commitment to protect human rights, ranging from the situation of media freedom in the country, to listening to human rights defenders and continue advocating for the rights of LGBTQI persons.

Save the date – Government Chemist Conference 2023

News story

The Government Chemist Conference will take place on 20-21 June 2023 at the Royal Society of Chemistry, London with remote attendance options



Meet experts to discuss how science can underpin effective solutions to the escalating challenges facing the global food system.

The event will take place at the Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London on 20-21 June with remote attendance options available.

Our last conference took place in June 2021 as an online event, [Safe food for tomorrow's world](#).

We will be announcing the programme and opening the registration in January 2023, but keep in touch with updates by signing up to email alerts, or following us on [@NML_ChemBioGC](#) using #GCconf2023

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[Three Hundreds of Chiltern](#)

News story

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has this day appointed Christian John Patrick Matheson to be Steward and Bailiff of the Three Hundreds of Chiltern.



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