

Wera Hobhouse passes new law to protect people from workplace harassment

Lib Dem MP, Wera Hobhouse's Worker Protection Bill cleared its final legislative hurdle today and is set to receive Royal Assent. The new law will give protections to employees from sexual harassment in the workplace.

Harassment in the workplace is a blight on society. It is widespread, it ruins lives and impacts effective working relationships in all walks of life. Not a week goes by without revelations of inappropriate behaviour in an organisation somewhere in the UK.

The Bill makes employers liable to their employees if they have not taken reasonable steps to prevent harassment. Shocking figures from the House of Commons Library have revealed that **one in five people have experience sexual harassment in the workplace every year.**

The Bill presents an opportunity to shift the culture in our workplaces where harassment is no longer tolerated. It will create a duty on employers to prevent harassment from happening and should bring about a long-term change in attitudes.

I am proud to have worked alongside brilliant organisations such as the Fawcett Society and the wider Alliance for Women, who continue to support this Bill because of the substantial difference it will make to workers' lives. I am also grateful to the Minister for Women for her support, and to Baroness Burt, who worked tirelessly to steer this Bill through the Lords."

Wera Hobhouse

Employees should not have to wait any longer for safe and respectful workplaces. The passage of this Bill will send a clear signal that such behaviour is unacceptable, and that we take the protections of employees seriously.

Read the Bill

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Publication of 'DVA Monthly Tests Conducted Statistics – September 2023'

The 'DVA Monthly Tests Conducted Statistics – September 2023' report, containing statistics up to September 2023, is now available.

Department of Education publishes Every CHILD, its Corporate Plan for 2023-2028

The Department of Education has published Every CHILD, its Corporate Plan for 2023-28 which puts children and young people at the centre of its strategic priorities.

Launch of competition to appoint a Chair to Invest NI

The Department for the Economy has launched a public appointment competition to appoint a substantive Chair to the Board of Invest NI.

Extension of Chair and Members to the Historic Buildings Council

The Department for Communities has announced the extension of the first term of appointment for the Chair and seven Members of the Historic Buildings Council (HBC) from 1 July 2023 until a permanent reappointment is made: