



Time Off Policy

What is it?

At some point you may need to take time off work, you'll be able to plan for most occasions but some you won't. This policy tells you about the different occasions that you may ask for time off. We have a separate policy for holidays, family leave, study leave or if you're sick. We also have our volunteering policy.

It's non contractual and may be changed in the future. If you have any questions about it, please contact HR Shared Services.

Who does it apply to?

This policy applies to anyone with a GB contract of employment.

What do I need to know or do?

Planned time off

It's important that you speak to your manager as early as possible to discuss your plans. There may be times when your manager has to say no due to business reasons; if they do you should talk about other options.

Time off reason	What do I need to know or do?
Doctor, dentist & hospital appointments	You should try to organise appointments outside of your working hours. If you can't you'll need your manager's approval. Please try and minimise your time away from work by organising your appointments at the start or end of the day. Your manager may ask for proof of your appointment and could request that you make the time back.



Author: Hannah Rees Date: April 2020

Time off reason	What do I need to know or do?
myLife Days	<p>As part of our myLife framework we give you 3 paid days off per holiday year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 myGiving days (volunteering) – this is so you can take part in volunteering activities during your normal working time for any registered charity of your choice. See Giving-Back Policy for more information. • 1 myJoy day (wellbeing) – which is for your own wellbeing to participate in whatever wellbeing means for you. It could be a day at the spa or playing golf, just some time out or even another day volunteering for your registered charity of choice. <p>You need to agree your myLife days in advance with your manager by booking on myHR. You need to give at least 2-weeks of notice prior to your planned time off.</p> <p>Please bear in mind that your myJoy day (wellbeing) is a standalone day and cannot be added on as part of your annual holiday or be taken on a last-minute basis.</p>
Jury service	<p>As soon as you get your letter about jury service let your manager know. You need to confirm the dates on your myHR time off record and upload a copy of the letter.</p> <p>We'll normally allow you time off to attend jury service; the only exception is if your absence will have a serious effect on the business. If it does, we can ask you to delay your jury service.</p> <p>We'll continue to pay you as normal whilst you're on jury service. We may ask you to pay us back any loss of earnings expenses that you may be able to claim from the court. We won't pay for any related expenses. You'll need to claim these back from the court - make sure you understand their rules on what's claimable.</p> <p>If you're told by the court that you're not needed for jury service, you must let your manager know that you're available for work.</p>
Attending court	<p>If you need to attend court as a defendant or witness, you'll need to discuss this with your manager as soon as you find out the court date(s). Your manager will agree how to manage your time away from work; you may need to book the time off as holiday or unpaid leave. You must record your time off on your myHR record. If you're a witness and receive normal pay from us, we may ask you to pay us back any loss of earnings expenses that you may be able to claim from the court.</p>



Time off reason	What do I need to know or do?
Public duties	<p>This means having a role that acts in the public interests, such as a school governor, magistrate, local councillor or a member of a public body (listed on UK government's website). If you decide to get involved in public duties, you must let us know and get our agreement before you start.</p> <p>You'll need to speak to your manager about what time off you're likely to need and over what time period, they'll agree with you how to manage this around your work commitments. You can use your volunteering days or holiday to take paid time off work, otherwise this will be unpaid. Your time off must be recorded on your <i>myHR</i> record.</p> <p>If your public duties are something we've encouraged or asked you to do as it's connected to your role and our 2020 vision, your manager will agree in advance how to manage your time away from work.</p>
Reserve forces	<p>If you're a member of the reserve forces you're allowed to take up to 2 weeks each year to go on training. This is in addition to your holiday entitlement and we'll top up your military salary to your normal level of earnings. You need to provide us your statement of salary and deductions from the services so we can calculate the difference payable to you.</p> <p>Your time away from work on training or mobilisation must be recorded on your <i>myHR</i> record.</p>
Reserve forces (continued)	<p>If your mobilisation is compulsory, you need to give your manager the official letter and mobilisation papers as soon as you can. You will also need to update your <i>myHR</i> time off record. If you're volunteering for mobilisation you need to get your manager's consent to do this beforehand. If your mobilisation will seriously impact the business, then we can ask for you not to go.</p> <p>Normally all contractual benefits, apart from your pay, will stay in place during your mobilisation. You'll receive a military salary instead and can make a claim for additional financial support from the forces. You need to be aware that your bonusable pay will change as we don't include your military salary in our calculations.</p> <p>We may suspend some of the benefits you normally receive as the insurance companies may not provide full coverage of these benefits e.g. life assurance. We'll discuss this with you before your mobilisation and how we'll collect your personal contributions for any continuing benefits that you have. You can usually claim additional financial support from the forces for any benefits that are suspended.</p> <p>You'll continue to accrue your holiday in the normal way. If your mobilisation falls over our holiday year you can carry over all your untaken holiday entitlement providing that it is all taken at the end of your mobilisation. You'll normally come back to your same job on the same terms and conditions, if there's some reason why this can't happen then we'll talk to you.</p>



Time off reason	What do I need to know or do?
Sabbatical leave	<p>There might be a time when you may wish or need to take extended time off for personal reasons; a sabbatical gives you the chance to do this whilst staying in employment. You can ask for a period of between 1 and 6 months off (maximum) if you have worked for us for 3 years or more and not taken sabbatical leave before. You must submit your request on our Sabbatical Leave Request Form, giving at least 3 months' notice.</p> <p>We'll consider the length and reasons for your request as well as your performance, disciplinary record, current work commitments, future business activity and the availability of existing resources; this will normally be done by your manager and will need approval from a Band E manager or above.</p> <p>If we agree to your request this will need to be recorded on your myHR time off record by you and your manager. Normally all contractual benefits, apart from your pay, pension contributions and company car (if eligible), will stay in place. Your sabbatical will be treated as unpaid leave and you need to be aware that this changes your bonusable pay. We'll need to discuss how we'll collect your personal contributions to any benefits that you may have. Company pension contributions will only be made if you make up your individual contributions before or after your sabbatical.</p>
Sabbatical leave (continued)	<p>Your company car will normally need to be returned whilst you're on sabbatical, or if you get trade out payments these will stop. You'll need to look at what you want to do with your flexible benefits. There may be limitations on some of the benefits payable such as life assurance as the insurance companies may not provide full cover of the benefits. If you have private healthcare, it only covers treatments in the UK. You'll continue to accrue your holiday in the normal way and normal rules about you being able to flex your holiday entitlement apply. You should agree with your manager how you'll keep in touch whilst you're off.</p> <p>We'll expect you back in work on the date agreed unless you tell us otherwise. You'll normally come back to your same job on the same terms and conditions, if there is some reason why this can't happen then we'll talk to you. If you want to change your return date (it must not go over the 6-month maximum period) you'll need to tell us in writing at least 4 weeks before your original return date.</p>

Unplanned time off

We know that everything can't be planned and sometimes you may need to take time off work at short notice. Your manager will try to support your request and will need to look at other options if more time off is needed. If they have to say no due to business reasons you should talk about other options. We also have our Employee Assistance Programme which gives you free and confidential advice and support.



Author: Hannah Rees Date: April 2020

Time off reason	What do I need to know or do?
Travel restrictions	<p>You should be aware and put in place alternative plans when travel disruptions are known in advance (e.g. road closures, public transport strikes) to minimise the impact on your working time.</p> <p>If something happens on your journey to work that means you can't continue as planned you should make all efforts to find another route or, if possible, work from a different location. When it's safe for you to do so you need to let your manager know and get their agreement if you plan to work elsewhere. If a situation is avoidable your manager may ask you to make the time up.</p>
Severe weather	<p>You should be aware and put in place alternative plans when severe weather is known in advance. We want you to be safe when travelling so we encourage you to take steps to avoid unnecessary or long distances journeys. If it's possible for you to travel to work safely then you should make every effort to do so. If you're not sure you should discuss this with your manager. Where you're unable to work or need to start later or finish earlier you must discuss this with your manager, you would normally be expected to take this as holiday or make up the time later.</p>
Severe weather (continued)	<p>If it's because of your dependents (e.g. school closure) you should take time off for dependents instead.</p>
Time off for dependants	<p>You may ask your manager for time off to deal with an emergency involving a dependant (child, grandchild, parent, partner, or someone who depends on you for care). An emergency is an unexpected and sudden problem, this could be due to a disruption of care arrangements, illness, injury or assault, going into labour (if mum to be is relying on you for transport) or you child is involved in an incident at school. An emergency doesn't include planned events such as medical appointments.</p> <p>You need to tell or get a message to your manager as quickly as possible about your need for time off, what it's for and how long you think you'll need off, this doesn't have to be in writing. You need to record your time off on your <i>myHR</i> record when you return to work.</p> <p>Time off for dependants is unpaid and is specifically for you to deal with the emergency and organise other arrangements if they're needed. You need to be aware that this will change your bonusable pay. If you need more time off this must be taken as holiday, unpaid leave, parental (if you're eligible for it) or carers leave and must be agreed with your manager. You must keep in regular contact with your manager whilst you're off.</p>



Time off reason	What do I need to know or do?
Carer support	<p>There may be a time when you need time off or flexibility so you can care for a dependent who is in hospital, recovering from surgery or a hospital stay, terminally ill or when you need to provide respite care. Please talk to your manager about what support you need. This could be requesting a change in your working hours or pattern, taking holidays or extended time off. If you need time away from work, carer leave gives you the chance to do this whilst staying in employment.</p> <p>You can ask for up to 6 months off over a 12-month period, this could be taken in one go or in smaller blocks throughout the year. You need to make and submit your request on your <i>myHR</i> time off record.</p> <p>Your manager will review your request and then decide upon approval. If you're requesting for more than 1 month off this will need approval from a Band E manager or above. Managers will take in to account previous periods of career leave and when these were. If we agree to your request this will need to be recorded and all contractual benefits, apart from your pay, pension contributions and company car (if eligible), will stay in place. Your carer leave will be treated as unpaid leave and you need to be aware that this changes your bonusable pay. We'll need to discuss how we'll collect your personal contributions to any benefits that you may have. Company pension contributions will only be made if you make up your individual contributions before or after your time off.</p> <p>Your company car will not need to be returned whilst you're on carer leave, but if you trade out payments will stop. You'll need to look at what you want to do with your flexible benefits. You'll continue to accrue your holiday in the normal way and normal rules about you being able to flex your holiday entitlement apply. You should agree with your manager how you'll keep in touch whilst you're off.</p> <p>We'll expect you back in work on the date agreed unless you tell us otherwise. You'll normally come back to your same job on the same terms and conditions, if there is some reason why this can't happen then we'll talk to you. If you want to change your return date, then you'll need to let us know as soon as possible.</p>



Time off reason	What do I need to know or do?
Bereavement leave	<p>Your manager will usually look to give you paid time off work up to 1 working week following the death of a close family member (parent, partner, child, brother or sister) and 1 day to attend the funeral. If it's the death of any other relative or friend your manager will usually agree to 1 day for you to attend the funeral. If you need more time to organise arrangements, then you may consider taking holiday or unpaid leave. If you need more time off for your bereavement this should be treated as sickness absence.</p> <p>It's a manager's decision to give bereavement leave so please talk to them and keep them updated so they can do their best to support you during this difficult time. You should agree with each other how often this will be.</p> <p>Manager's should consider the closeness of the relationship, the impact of the death, geographical and transport considerations and your responsibilities at the time of the bereavement. If you have concerns about your manager's decision you may ask your manager's manager to review it, this is not a formal right of appeal.</p> <p>Your bereavement leave will need to be recorded on your <i>myHR</i> time off record by your manager or yourself.</p> <p>On Our Britvic, you have access to the myLife Wellbeing portal which is a resource to support you. Through myLife, counselling is available to you on a 24/7 basis. You have the option of talking to a trained professional over the phone or via the on-line chat facility. This service is free and any advice and support you receive is private and totally confidential.</p>
Parental Bereavement	<p>If you're a bereaved parent (including foster parents, adopters and guardians), following the loss of a child below the age of 18 (including a still-birth after 24 weeks), you're entitled to an additional week of statutory bereavement leave. This must be taken within 56 days of the child's death. If you have at least 26 weeks of service, you will be eligible for statutory bereavement pay at the lower of the statutory rate or 90% of your average earnings.</p> <p>Your bereavement leave will need to be recorded on your myHR time off record by your manager or yourself. For payroll purposes, if a bereaved parent is taking statutory bereavement leave, this also must be notified to HR Services via askHR.</p> <p>On Our Britvic, you have access to the myLife Wellbeing portal which is a resource to support you. Through myLife, counselling is available to you on a 24/7 basis. You have the option of talking to a trained professional over the phone or via the on-line chat facility. This service is free and any advice and support you receive is private and totally confidential.</p>



What happens if I don't follow it?

If you don't follow this policy it could affect your compliance rating on Growth, Performance, Success (GPS) and become a disciplinary matter. If you take time off without your manager's approval this will be treated as unauthorised absence.

What other documents do I need to know about?

- [Family Leave Policy](#)
- [Sickness Absence Policy](#)
- [Holiday Policy](#)
- [Giving Back Policy](#)
- [Ways of Working Policy](#)
- [Flexible Working Guidance](#)
- [Professional Qualification & Membership Policy](#)
- [Britvic Standard Terms and Conditions of Employment](#)
- [Absence Forms, Letters, Templates & Useful Links](#)

