

Who should attend

Trade unionists, employment lawyers working in support of trade unions, and academics and students with an interest in industrial relations and labour law.

CPD accreditation

All seminars and conferences attract 3 CPD hours, accredited by the Solicitors Regulation Authority, and the Bar Standards Board. Delegates requiring CPD hours may be charged an additional administration fee of £10 to cover our costs.

Additional information

Name changes are accepted up until the time of the event. Delegates who advise IER of their cancellation more than 15 working days in advance will receive a credit note with 10% deduction for administration.

Costs

	Full Price	
Entry	£50 per delegate	
Concessions	£25 per delegate	

Reduced prices can be negotiated for block bookings. Please telephone the office for further information 0151 207 5265.

How to get there

Train: Lime Street Station for British Rail and Merseyrail.

Bookings: 3 easy ways to pay

1. Website: go to www.ier.org.uk/events and look for this conference. To get your earlybird discount pay online using paypal.
2. Post: to get your early bird discount send a cheque with your booking form. Cheques are payable to IER, post to IER, 4th Floor, Jack Jones House, 1 Islington, Liverpool L3 8EG
3. Email: office@ier.org.uk to make your booking.

Booking form

Please reserve ___ places at the Liverpool Employment Law Update: The Trade Union Act, ballots and important public services Conference at £___ each

Name.....

Address.....

Email

Organisation.....

Please invoice me/I enclose a cheque for £.....

Return completed form to IER, 4th Floor, Jack Jones House, 1 Islington, Liverpool, L3 8EG, tel: 0151 207 5265, fax: 0151 207 5264, or email office@ier.org.uk

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Employment Law Update: The Trade Union Act, ballots and important public services

A one day conference
Thursday 25 May 2017
9:30am to 3:00pm
Unite the Union NW Office,
Islington, Liverpool

Liverpool
#ierELU



Organised by
The Institute of
Employment Rights

About the conference

In March this year, the widely contested Trade Union Act (TUA) came into effect. Under the draconian new laws, trade unions must secure a 50% turnout on strike ballots, and those in so-called “important” public services must also have the support of 40% of all those eligible to vote. Other regulations designed to make it harder to take industrial action include doubling the notice period unions must give employers, shortening the window in which strike ballots are valid, and imposing more restrictive rules around picketing as well as the information unions must provide on ballot papers and reports.

While the unions are being wrapped in red tape, a campaign to break the labour movement is being wrought through other sections of the Act that serve to drain unions of resources and provide propagandist material for the increasingly hostile media. Public sector organisations must now publish the cost of facility time but are not required to show the benefits – economic and otherwise – of a trade union presence. The Secretary for State also reserves the power to cap facility time through secondary legislation – i.e. without a parliamentary vote – in the future. The Certification Officer (CO) may now investigate allegations about union rule breaching from parties who are not union members, including organisations and individuals who are ideologically motivated to make vexatious complaints. Not only will the labour movement have to foot the bill for the CO’s new activities, but the government is now consulting on regulations to allow the CO to fine unions up to £20,000 for rule breaches, making the regulator ‘judge, jury and executioner’. Outgoing CO David Cockburn warned government in his final report that this new role may contravene the human right to a fair trial.

And he is not the only official to have criticised the Act. The Welsh Assembly has now published the Trade Union Bill, which repeals the TUA as far as it pertains to the Welsh public sector, arguing that the anti-trade union laws will lead to poorer employee relations. Elsewhere, the Labour Party has promised to repeal the Act within its first 100 days of office.

This conference will take a detailed look at the TUA, with our panel of lawyers, academics and campaigners updating delegates on what the new law requires of unions, as well as how it can be resisted and challenged. The Institute of Employment Rights will also provide further detail on its Manifesto for Labour Law, which aims to strengthen union and worker rights, and the principles of which have been adopted by the Labour Party.

Programme

9:30	Registration
9:50	Welcome from the chair <i>James Harrison</i>
10:00	The TU Act: an attack on collective bargaining <i>Prof. Keith Ewing, IER</i>
10:30	Trade Union Democracy and the Challenge of The New Industrial Action Ballot Thresholds <i>Prof. Ralph Darlington, University of Salford</i>
11:00	Questions and discussion
11:15	Break
11:30	The Trade Union Act: towards further individualism <i>Prof. Nicola Countouris, UCL University</i>
12:00	Equality, migration, Brexit & the Trade Union Act <i>Prof. Tonia Novitz, University of Bristol</i>
12:30	Q&A
12:45	LUNCH
13:45	The impact of the law on industrial disputes: past experience and future possibilities <i>Bob Simpson, London School of Economics & Political science</i>
2:15	The Trade Union Act and the FBU fight back <i>Les Skarratts, FBU</i>
2:45	Questions and discussion
3:00	Close