STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2017 No. 134

TRADE UNIONS

The Important Public Services (Fire) Regulations 2017

Made - - - - 9th February 2017

Coming into force in accordance with regulation 1

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 226(2D) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992(**a**), makes the following Regulations.

A draft of these Regulations was laid before Parliament in accordance with section 226(2F) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992(**b**) and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Important Public Services (Fire) Regulations 2017.

(2) These Regulations come into force on—

(a) 1st March 2017, or

(b) if later, at the end of the period of 21 days beginning with the day on which they are made.

Fire services

2. The following fire services are important public services for the purposes of section 226 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992—

(a) services provided by firefighters in extinguishing fires and protecting life and property in the event of fires; and

(**a**) 1992 c.52. Section 226(2D) was inserted by section 3 of the Trade Union Act 2016 (c.15).
(**b**) Section 226(2F) was inserted by section 3 of the Trade Union Act 2016.

(b) services provided by fire and rescue authority personnel in dealing with, and organising a response to, a call made from a telephone or other device to request the services provided by firefighters as mentioned in paragraph (a).

Margot James
Minister for Small Business, Consumer and Corporate Responsibility
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

9th February 2017

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

Section 226(2B) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 ("the 1992 Act") (inserted by the Trade Union Act 2016 (c.15)) introduces a new 40% threshold of support that must be satisfied in ballots for industrial action in important public services. This applies unless the union reasonably believes that a majority of those balloted are workers who are not normally engaged in the provision of important public services.

These Regulations specify for the purposes of section 226 of the 1992 Act the important public services in the fire sector. Separate Regulations specify the important public services in the health, education, transport and border security sectors.

A full impact assessment of the effect that this instrument, and the related Regulations, will have on the costs of business and the public sector is available from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET, and is annexed to the Explanatory Memorandum which is available alongside the instrument on www.legislation.gov.uk.

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