

Maternity Increases Delayed

The Government has delayed the planned increase in paid Maternity/Adoption leave and the introduction of Additional Paternity Leave and Pay.

The Government's plan is still to extend Statutory Maternity Pay, Maternity Allowance and Statutory Adoption Pay from the current length of 39 weeks to 52 weeks. It also plans to introduce Additional Paternity Leave and Pay, which would give fathers a right to make up to 26 additional weeks off work with pay to care for their child in its first year, provided that the mother has returned to work before using her full entitlement of paid maternity leave. However, the changes, which were due to come into effect for babies due on or after April 2009 will now (we are told) come into effect for babies due on or after April 2010.

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