

Flexible Working Policy

Rev 1

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AARSLEFF CENTRUM



**CANNON
PILING**
a part of Aarsleff Ground Engineering Limited

1. POLICY STATEMENT

1.1 This policy applies to all companies within Aarsleff Ground Engineering Ltd UK and Avoncross Ltd, including companies trading as Centrum Pile and Cannon Piling (referred to in this statement as 'The Company').

1.2 This policy is non-contractual and the Company reserves the right to amend or withdraw the policy at any time at the Company's discretion.

1.3 We are committed to providing equality of opportunity in employment and to developing working practices and policies that support work-life balance. This Flexible Working Policy gives employees an opportunity to formally request a change to their working pattern in accordance with the statutory procedure for such requests. Line managers are encouraged to facilitate requests unless they cannot be accommodated for business or operational reasons.

1.4 No one who makes a request for flexible working will be subjected to any detriment or lose any career development opportunities as a result.

1.5 This policy applies to all employees. It does not apply to agency workers, consultants or self-employed contractors.

1.6 This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment, and we may amend it at any time.

2. PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY

2.1 The Board of Directors have overall responsibility for the effective operation of this policy and for ensuring compliance with the relevant statutory framework.

2.2 Managers have a specific responsibility to ensure the fair application of this policy and all members of staff are responsible for supporting colleagues and ensuring its success.

3. FORMS OF FLEXIBLE WORKING

3.1 Flexible working can incorporate a number of possible changes to working arrangements, such as:

3.1.1 Reduction or variation of working hours;

3.1.2 Reduction or variation of the days worked; and/or

3.1.3 Working from a different location (for example, from home).

3.2 The possible changes to working arrangements mentioned in paragraph 3.1 may also involve:

3.2.1 Starting a job share;

3.2.2 Working a set number of hours a year, rather than a week (annualised hours);

3.2.3 Working from home (whether for all or part of the week);

3.2.4 Working only during term-time (part-year working);

3.2.5 Working compressed hours; and/or

3.2.6 Working flexi-time.

4. ELIGIBILITY FOR THE FORMAL RIGHT TO REQUEST PROCEDURE

4.1 To be eligible to make a request under the formal procedure set out in paragraph 5 to paragraph 8 you must:

4.1.1 be an employee;

4.1.2 not have made more than two formal requests to work flexibly during the last 12 months.

4.2 If you are not eligible to make a formal request, you may make an informal request under paragraph 10.

5. MAKING A FORMAL FLEXIBLE WORKING REQUEST

5.1 Any employee interested in flexible working is advised to speak informally to their line manager to discuss their eligibility, the different options and the effect of their proposed work pattern on colleagues and service delivery, before submitting a formal or informal request.

5.2 You will need to submit a written application if you would like your flexible working request to be considered under the formal procedure.

5.3 Your application should be submitted to your line manager in good time and ideally at least two months before you would like the changes to take effect. It should:

5.3.1 State that it is a flexible working request;

5.3.2 Your request must be dated;

5.3.3 Explain the reasons for your request, for example, childcare or other family commitments, religious or cultural requirements, or adjustments because of a disability;

5.3.4 Provide as much information as you can about your current and desired working pattern, including working days, hours and start and finish times, and give the date from which you want the changes to take effect;

5.3.5 Identify the effect the changes to your working pattern will have on the work that you do, that of your colleagues and on service delivery. If you have any suggestions about dealing with any potentially negative effects, please include these in your written application; and

5.3.6 Provide information to confirm that you meet the eligibility criteria set out in paragraph 4 of this policy including any previous formal requests for flexible working.

5.4 In most cases we will need to have a meeting with you before making a decision. In some cases, we may be able to approve your request without a formal meeting, although it will usually be helpful to your line manager to discuss the request with you to ensure it is the best solution.

6. FORMAL REQUEST: MEETING

6.1 Where necessary, your line manager will arrange a meeting with you after your application has been submitted. You may bring a colleague to the meeting as a companion if you wish. Your companion will be entitled to speak during the meeting and confer privately with you but may not answer questions on your behalf.

6.2 In most cases, the meeting will be held at your usual place of work. We will try to ensure that the meeting is held at a time and place that is convenient to everyone.

6.3 The meeting will be used to discuss the working arrangements you have requested. You will be able to explain how the arrangements will accommodate your needs. You will also be able to discuss what impact your proposed working arrangements will have on your work and that of your colleagues. If we cannot accommodate the arrangements you have requested, discussion at the meeting also provides an opportunity to explore possible alternative working arrangements.

6.4 Your line manager may suggest starting new working arrangements under an initial trial period to ensure that they meet your needs and those of your team and/or department.

7. FORMAL REQUEST: DECISION

7.1 We will notify you of the decision in writing as soon as possible and within two months of your request.

7.2 If your request is accepted, or where we propose an alternative to the arrangements you requested, your line manager will write to you with details of the new working arrangements, details of any trial period, an explanation of changes to your contract of employment and the date on which they will commence. You will be asked to sign and return a copy of the letter. This will be placed on your personnel file to confirm the variation to your terms of employment.

7.3 Unless otherwise agreed (and subject to any agreed trial period) changes to your terms of employment will be permanent.

7.4 If your line manager needs more time to make a decision (longer than two months), for example, where they need more time to investigate how your request can be accommodated or to consult several members of staff, they will discuss this with you.

7.5 There will be circumstances where, due to business and operational requirements, we are unable to agree to a request. In these circumstances, your line manager will write to you:

7.5.1 explaining the business reason(s) for turning down your application; and

7.5.2 setting out the appeal procedure.

7.6 The eight business reasons for which we may reject your request are:

7.6.1 The burden of additional costs;

7.6.2 Detrimental effect on ability to meet customer demand;

7.6.3 Inability to reorganise work among existing staff;

7.6.4 Inability to recruit additional staff;

7.6.5 Detrimental impact on quality;

7.6.6 Detrimental impact on performance;

7.6.7 Insufficiency of work during the periods that you propose to work; and

7.6.8 Planned changes.

8. FORMAL REQUEST: APPEAL

8.1 If your request is rejected, you have the right to appeal.

8.2 Your appeal must:

8.2.1 be in writing and dated;

8.2.2 set out the grounds on which you are appealing; and

8.2.3 be sent to the HR Department within 10 working days of the date on which you received the written rejection of your request.

8.3 The HR Department will arrange for a meeting to take place following receipt of your appeal. We will try to hold the meeting at a convenient time for all those attending. You may be accompanied by a colleague of your choice.

8.4 Where possible, the appeal meeting will be conducted by a line manager who has not been previously involved in considering your request.

8.5 You will be informed in writing of the decision as soon as possible after the appeal meeting.

8.6 If your appeal is upheld, you will be advised of your new working arrangements, details of any trial period, an explanation of changes to your contract of employment and the date on which they will commence. You will be asked to sign and return a copy of the letter. This will be placed on your personnel file to confirm the variation to your terms of employment.

8.7 You should be aware that changes to your terms of employment will be permanent, any further requested changes will be subject to making an additional flexible working application, of which employees can make two applications in a 12-month period.

8.8 If your appeal is rejected, the written decision will give the business reason(s) for the decision and explain why the reason(s) apply in your case.

9. EXTENDING TIME UNDER THE FORMAL PROCEDURE

9.1 There may be exceptional occasions when it is not possible to complete consideration of your request within the expected time limit of two months. Where an extension of time is agreed with you, your line manager will write to you confirming the extension and the date on which it will end.

9.2 If you withdraw a formal request for flexible working, you will only be eligible to make one more formal request within the 12-month period from the date of your original request. In certain circumstances, a formal request will be treated as withdrawn. This will occur if you fail to attend a meeting and a re-arranged meeting, or an appeal meeting and a rearranged appeal meeting, without good cause.

In such circumstances, your line manager will write to you confirming that the request has been treated as withdrawn.

10. MAKING AN INFORMAL FLEXIBLE WORKING REQUEST

10.1 Employees who are ineligible to make a formal request for flexible working may make an informal request to their line manager, who will consider it according to our business and operational requirements.

10.2 It will help your line manager to consider your request if you:

10.2.1 Make your request in writing and confirm whether you wish any change to your current working pattern to be temporary or permanent.

10.2.2 Provide as much information as you can about your current and desired working pattern, including working days, hours and start and finish times, and give the date from which you want your desired working pattern to start; and

10.2.3 Think about what effect the changes to your working pattern will have on the work that you do and on your colleagues, as well as on our service delivery and that of your team and/or department. If you have any suggestions about dealing with any potentially negative effects, please include these in your written application. Your line manager can consider whether they are workable.

10.3 Your line manager will advise you what steps will be taken to consider your request, which may include inviting you to attend a meeting, before advising you of the outcome of your request.