

# LEGALEYE

## Sue Ferns reports on new arrangements for legal services

Prospect's national conference in 2014 decided that the union should review our legal services provision.

Access to free legal support is an important part of Prospect's membership offer, providing clear benefits over and above high street firms and some other unions. The union advantage has become even more significant in the light of recent changes, including reforms to the conduct of personal injury claims and the introduction of Employment Tribunal fees.

So, the conference decision provided a welcome opportunity to ensure that Prospect's legal services continue to provide the best quality of service and value for money.

Guided and monitored by the NEC we conducted a rigorous review, inviting tenders and holding interviews with a range of potential service providers. At the end of this process, the NEC selected Pattinson & Brewer as Prospect's new legal services provider.

Pattinson & Brewer have a proven track record and work with a number of union clients, who speak highly of their work. They have a genuine commitment to ensure that members receive a first class service, have a strong and longstanding commitment to trade unions and are committed to helping grow union membership.

Prospect will move on from Slater & Gordon with some sadness. We continue to maintain a cordial relationship, and there will be continuity of service for members with existing cases.

However, we are delighted to begin our new partnership with Pattinson & Brewer from 1 October 2015.

t: <https://www.prospect.org.uk/id/2015-09-30>



The Prospect Legal team meet with Pattinson & Brewer at their offices

Photo: Joanne O'Brien

## Legal advice for Prospect members

Prospect believes in justice, equality, and fairness for members, both in their working lives and outside work. Your Prospect membership gives you access to a high-quality, responsive and effective range of legal services.

The union is uniquely placed to assist with problems at work. In most areas we know the organisation you work for and the terms and conditions that apply to employees. Our workplace knowledge, combined with our legal expertise, provides you with an invaluable service.

Prospect pays the fees involved in bringing cases to tribunals and courts whenever we support a claim from you. There are fees of up to £1,200 for bringing a claim to an employment tribunal, but as a Prospect member you have the reassurance of not facing these excessive costs as we do not ask you to repay to the Union such fees whether your case is successful or not.

Members are also eligible for advice from highly specialised lawyers on

personal injury claims. Unlike other firms, you can rest assured that by bringing your claim through Prospect's solicitors you will always retain 100% of your damages payments.

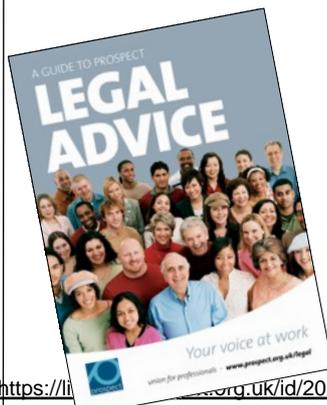
### Our legal advice scheme covers:

- ✓ rights at work
- ✓ personal injury
- ✓ LegalLine telephone advice service
- ✓ regulatory, professional and criminal law
- ✓ other legal services on:
  - ✓ defamation
  - ✓ clinical negligence
  - ✓ Wills
  - ✓ criminal injuries compensation
  - ✓ welfare benefits
- ✓ discounted legal services through our solicitors on a range of other non-work issues.

See our new guide to Prospect legal advice at: [bit.ly/1ViIB5P](http://bit.ly/1ViIB5P) and further information can be found on our web site at: [bit.ly/1ijK3SG](http://bit.ly/1ijK3SG)



Sue Ferns, Deputy General Secretary



### LegalLine

For advice about rights at work contact your Prospect representative or negotiator

For most other legal services, including:

- ✓ Making a claim for personal injury
- ✓ Free initial advice on non-work related issues
- ✓ Wills, defamation, clinical negligence, & criminal injuries
- ✓ Discounted legal services

Call LegalLine on **0808 28 193 28** or contact ProspectLegal on 020 7902 6624 or email [ProspectLegal@prospect.org.uk](mailto:ProspectLegal@prospect.org.uk)

For a full guide to Prospect legal advice see [bit.ly/1ViIB5P](http://bit.ly/1ViIB5P)



## A message to Prospect from Pattinson & Brewer

I am delighted that my firm, Pattinson & Brewer, has been appointed to provide legal support and representation to Prospect members and their families.



Frances McCarthy

I thought you might like to know a little bit about our firm. We were established in 1890 and have always been firmly on the side of working people, helping them to fight for justice.

In 1901, we were the lawyers involved in the Taff Vale case, and the subsequent lobby to overturn the attack on trade union rights, which led to the 1906 Trade Disputes Act. This legislation provided the very foundation for the law on the right to strike.

Following this, our teams of lawyers led the pre War charge for justice for working people, taking on cases under the Workman's Compensation Act, pursuing many to the House of Lords.

Our position as the leading law firm for working people was cemented in 1922 when Ernest Bevin appointed us as lawyers for the newly formed Transport & General Workers Union, and ever since we have been at the forefront of acting for Trade Unions and their members.

Throughout the difficult Thatcher years we were frequently in the Court of Appeal and House of Lords defending the right of Trade Unions to organise and defend their members' interests. Today we are still regularly in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court and have two judicial review matters about to be heard.

Our ethos as a firm is that access to justice is a basic human right – and we are proud to defend it.

With offices in London, York, Bristol and close partnerships in Newcastle, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, we provide a truly national service to our many Trade Union clients.

My promise to all our clients, and now to you at Prospect is this: every one of your members who needs help will be treated as a valued individual, each one a personal client not a file name or number.

Our lawyers work for us because they want to work with Trade Unions and help people – you will find that they will always 'go the extra mile' to help you when you need us.

As a matter of fundamental principle, we do not act for employers or their insurers. We are 100% committed to being on the side of working people.

Frances McCarthy, Managing Partner



To find out more about P&B's history of working with unions visit:  
[bit.ly/1hWiuYX](http://bit.ly/1hWiuYX)

## LEGALEYE

This is a special edition of our regular e-newsletter LegalEye, which features success stories from around the union as well as highlighting updates and changes relevant to members.

Previous editions can be downloaded from: [bit.ly/1Xjuo69](http://bit.ly/1Xjuo69)

## Already have a case running?

If you already have a case with our previous lawyers, Slater & Gordon, they will continue to act for you. This will ensure continuity of advice and no unnecessary delays or duplication in the work.

## Members outside Great Britain

If you are on the Isle of Man, Jersey or Guernsey Prospect has separate arrangements with local firms for providing legal services. Your services are not affected by the move to P&B and you will continue to get expert advice through the local firm to ensure you have accessible lawyers with expertise in your legal jurisdiction. The provision of advice is slightly different but you still have access to very similar services.

If you are in Northern Ireland we have a mix of providers, with most personal injury and other court work undertaken by our solicitors in Belfast. But you are also eligible to use the free initial advice line run by Pattinson & Brewer as they will be able to advise on many legal matters.

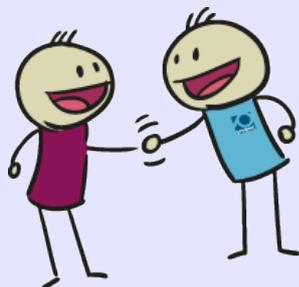
## More information from Prospect Legal:

- ✓ Sign up for automatic email alerts on employment rights at: [bit.ly/1iRR3C3](http://bit.ly/1iRR3C3)
- ✓ For the latest news follow us on Twitter: [@LegalProspect](https://twitter.com/LegalProspect)

## Member-Recruit- Member Stronger Together

Members who recruit a colleague can choose a £10 shopping voucher or make a donation to charity.

To find out more visit:  
[www.prospect.org.uk/mrm](http://www.prospect.org.uk/mrm)



## Know your legal rights at work

Prospect produces a range of guides to help members better understand their rights at work these include fact cards, members' guides and other specialist publications.

Prospect Legal issues briefings and updates to enable you to keep up to date on changes taking place, these can be found at [bit.ly/emp\\_law](http://bit.ly/emp_law)

