

PRESS RELEASE



For immediate release: Wednesday, 26 May 2010

MDDUS LAUNCHES FREE EMPLOYMENT LAW ADVICE.

A specialist service offering expert advice on HR and employment law matters has been launched by the medical and dental defence organisation MDDUS.

The free helpline – which goes live on June 1 – will offer unlimited HR and employment law advice from MDDUS' new specialist HR advisers. MDDUS is the first defence organisation in the UK to offer this type of advice in-house to its members.

The UK-wide organisation says the new service is a direct response to increasing demand from practice managers and members who have employment responsibilities, and who must keep up with the rapid pace of change within complex legislation.

The experienced team will provide guidance on good HR practices and advice to those experiencing difficulties with employment matters. The service is intended to primarily operate during core hours but will be available 24/7 for urgent enquiries.

MDDUS members will enjoy prompt advice via telephone or email on pressing matters and assistance in drafting or amending employment-related policies and procedures – all compliant with latest legislation. As the advice service is unlimited, members can speak with the team regularly for follow-up on developing situations.

Liz Price, employment law services manager at MDDUS says: "Our members – wherever they are based in the UK – deserve the very best advice.

"They already know we offer expert medico-legal and dento-legal advice but practice managers have been asking us for a specialist employment law service for some time.

"MDDUS prides itself on listening to its members and we are delighted to be able to expand our services so they can now get expert advice on employment issues that could affect the smooth running of their practice."

Price adds: "I think this will prove to be an invaluable service and give members the peace of mind to know they are following procedures correctly – freeing up time to concentrate on the clinical aspects of their role."

The new employment law advisers will offer advice on a wide range of common problem areas such as staff conduct and implementation of disciplinary procedures; maternity and discrimination; terms and conditions of employment contracts; staff sickness; and grievance procedures.

They will also advise on other issues including capability and suitability for roles; retirement of staff; redundancy and restructuring issues; and resignation of staff.

The new service will be available from June 1 by calling 0845 270 2034 to speak directly with the team or by email at employmentlaw@mddus.com

In addition to the helpline, MDDUS is also offering to MDDUS Practice Schemes – where all GP/GDP partners are members of MDDUS – the opportunity to register for the Legal Support, Representation and Indemnity package (LRI) which will be available for a small additional fee per head of GP/GDP within the practice.

The LRI package provides access to assistance in matters that go beyond simple advice and guidance. It includes:

- Legal support and representation including costs.
- Employment tribunal award protection: in cases where an employee is awarded financial compensation following representation of a practice by our legal partners the settlement will be met on the practice's behalf by MDDUS. This is a significant benefit as disability claimants have been awarded in excess of £200,000.

Ends

For further information contact Colin Calder on 0141 616 2677 or 07850 510881.

Note to editors

MDDUS (Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland) is a medical defence organisation providing access to professional indemnity and expert medico-legal advice for doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals throughout the UK.

For further information on MDDUS go to www.mddus.com.