Making a flexible working request

You might be able to make a ‘flexible working request’ to your employer if you want to:

• reduce your hours to work part-time
• change your start and finish time
• have flexibility with your start and finish time (sometimes known as ‘flexitime’)
• do your hours over fewer days (‘compressed hours’)
• work from home or elsewhere (‘remote working’)
• share the job with someone else

You can ask for the change to be for:

• all working days
• specific days or shifts only
• specific weeks only, for example during school term time
• a limited time, for example for 6 months only

Check your right to make a request

By law, you have the right to make a flexible working request if:

• you’ve worked for your employer for at least 26 weeks
• you’re legally classed as an employee
• you’ve not made any other flexible working request in the last 12 months

If you have the right to request, your employer must:

• look at your request fairly, following the Acas Code of Practice on flexible working requests
• make a decision within a maximum of 3 months

Some employers will allow you to make a request even if you do not have the legal right – check your workplace’s policy.

If you’re a parent or carer

All employees have the right to request flexible working, including if you’re:

• a parent
• a carer
• returning from maternity leave
All flexible working requests should be treated in the same way.

If you’re a parent or carer, your employer might have other ways for you to take time off. For example, parental leave to look after your child or time off for dependants. Check your workplace’s policy.