

August 2026 Newsletter of the Industrial Court



Industrial
Court

*Adjudicating on trade union recognition
and collective bargaining issues*

HEADLINES

- 26 March 2026 – Our Senior Case Manager, Nigel Falls was in attendance at the NI ICTU Learning Conference with informational stand.
- 26 May 2026 – Chairman of the Court, Sarah Havlin was invited guest at NERI Labour Market Conference.
- 2 June 2026 – Northern Ireland Employers, Vibrant Talent Conference 'Good Jobs, Better Business' – Our senior Case Manager Nigel Falls was a featured speaker.
- 9 July 2026 – Chairman Sarah Havlin has produced her first of six articles for Legal Island, '[what is the Industrial Court of Northern Ireland](#)' and is now live on their Employment Law Hub.
- 29 June 2026 – Chairman Sarah Havlin recorded a podcast with Craig Thompson from Vibrant Talent. We are looking forward to the release in the coming weeks.

In Memoriam



The Chairman, members and staff of the Industrial Court were devastated by the death of our esteemed Colleague Patricia O'Callaghan on 22nd July 2026.

Patricia served as an Employer Member of the Industrial Court for the last 15 years and her contribution to the Industrial Court over this time has been invaluable. Patricia was previously a senior Nurse and Director of the Belfast Trust where she managed multiple large and complex work forces. In her retirement Patricia led a voluntary project to build the first paediatric hospital in Uganda, which tells you a lot about the type of woman she was; generous and caring, determined and tenacious, and full of so much energy and positivity.

Patricia deeply valued relationships and treated everyone as a friend first and a colleague second. She was a valued and respected colleague to all of us at the Court, but most of all we will deeply miss our wonderful friend. It was an honour and a privilege for us all to work alongside Patricia O'Callaghan. May she rest in peace.

CASES, QUERIES, DEVELOPMENTS

The Court received a new application for statutory recognition of a trade union in a public sector workplace.

The Chairman of the Industrial Court is actively engaging on the progress of the Good Jobs Bill and policy developments from the Minister for the Economy. The Minister's current proposals around the role of trade unions and collective bargaining will extend the role and powers of the Court.

The full Court membership met for its second quarterly meeting in June. Minutes of all Court meetings are published on our [website](#).

LOOKING FORWARD

August:

The Chairman's second article will be published by Legal Island Employment Law Hub in August, and will focus on the practical process of an application for statutory recognition.

September:

The next quarterly meeting of the Court will take place on 25 September

TUC Conference, Brighton 13 – 15 September

Employers Federation Conference, Belfast 16 September

October:

Conference to celebrate 80 years of the Labour Court of Ireland, Dublin 15 October 2026

November:

ICTU Biennial Delegate Conference, Derry/Londonderry 25 and 26 November

IF YOU HAVE A WORKPLACE ISSUE RELATED TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, THE INDUSTRIAL COURT MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU