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# FREETHS

Long-term absence: how would you manage an employee with long COVID? Toby Pochron, Managing Associate

## **Overview of session**



- The impact of the pandemic and long COVID on how organisations manage absence
- How to support employees who are absent long-term and help reintroduce them to the workforce effectively
- The legal issues to consider in relation to long-term absence and disability discrimination
- Q&A

### The pandemic, long Covid and absence management



- What is long covid?
- The impact on the workforce:
  - 1.9% of the population self-reporting long Covid symptoms
  - 65% adversely affected the day-to-day activities
  - Most common symptom being fatigue
- How to approach long term absences due to long covid?



- Education in the workplace on long covid
- Occupational Health assessments and reasonable adjustments
- Flexible working
- Mental health and communication
  How other organisations are supporting staff



"A person (P) has a disability if P has:

- a physical or mental impairment, and the impairment has a
- <u>substantial</u> and <u>long term adverse effect</u> on P's ability to carry out <u>normal day-to-day activities</u>"

## FREETHS



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