17 November 2021

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>"

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