

*The reasons for rejection must be on reasonable business grounds.*

## **76 Extending period of unpaid parental leave—extending for up to 12 months beyond available parental leave period**

*Employee may request further period of leave*

- (1) An employee who takes unpaid parental leave under section 71 or 72 for his or her available parental leave period may request his or her employer to agree to an extension of unpaid parental leave for the employee for a further period of up to 12 months immediately following the end of the available parental leave period.

Note: Extended periods of unpaid parental leave can include keeping in touch days on which an employee performs work (see section 79A).

*Agreeing to the requested extension*

- (3) The employer must give the employee a written response to the request stating whether the employer grants or refuses the request. The response must be given as soon as practicable, and not later than 21 days, after the request is made.
- (4) The employer may refuse the request only on reasonable business grounds.
- (5) If the employer refuses the request, the written response under subsection (3) must include details of the reasons for the refusal.

*Discussion*

- (5A) The employer must not refuse the request unless the employer has given the employee a reasonable opportunity to discuss the request.