

SCHEDULE 18

Code Dispute Resolution Procedure

This is Schedule 18 comprising the Code Dispute Resolution Procedure

between

CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL

and

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

and

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

and

BALFOUR BEATTY FIRE AND RESCUE NW LIMITED

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SCHEDULE 18

Code Dispute Resolution Procedure

The parties must exhaust all normal local procedures as required by paragraph 9 and paragraph 13 of the Code before invoking the Alternative Dispute Resolution procedure (ADR) provided for in paragraph 14 of the Code.

The ADR will be under the supervision of an independent person appointed from an approved list supplied by ACAS. If the parties so agree, they may appoint two "wing members" with an employer and trade union background to assist the independent person.

1. THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

Disputes will be resolved using the following three (3) stage procedure.

1.1 Stage 1 - initial reference to the independent person

The independent person will be invited to answer three (3) questions:-

1.1.1 Is this a dispute about the application of the Code?

If the answer is no, the matter can proceed no further. If yes, then the independent person will move to question 1.1.2.

1.1.2 Have the parties exhausted local procedures?

If the answer is no, then the parties will be invited to make further local efforts to resolve the dispute. If yes, then the independent person will conduct an independent assessment, by answering question 1.1.3 and giving reasons for the answer.

1.1.3 Do the terms and conditions of employment on offer to new employees comply with the Code?

If the answer is yes, then the matter is deemed to be concluded and the contractor can continue to offer the same package of conditions to new employees. If the answer is no, then the dispute will proceed to Stage 2.

Time limit - Twenty (20) Business Days.

1.2 Stage 2 - discussions with a view to reaching an agreement on compliant terms and conditions

1.2.1 Stage 2 begins with the parties being invited to seek to resolve the matter through further discussions.

1.2.2 The independent person will make themselves available to the parties to facilitate the process. The parties also have the option of establishing other arrangements for mediation.

1.2.3 If the parties can reach an agreement consistent with the Code then the matter is closed and the new package of conditions of employment will be applied both to new starters and to those employed during the dispute.

- 1.2.4 If no agreement can be reached within the allotted time then the dispute will proceed to Stage 3.

Time limit - Ten (10) Business Days, with the possibility that this might be extended by the agreement of the parties and with the consent of the independent person.

1.3 **Stage 3 - final reference to the independent person**

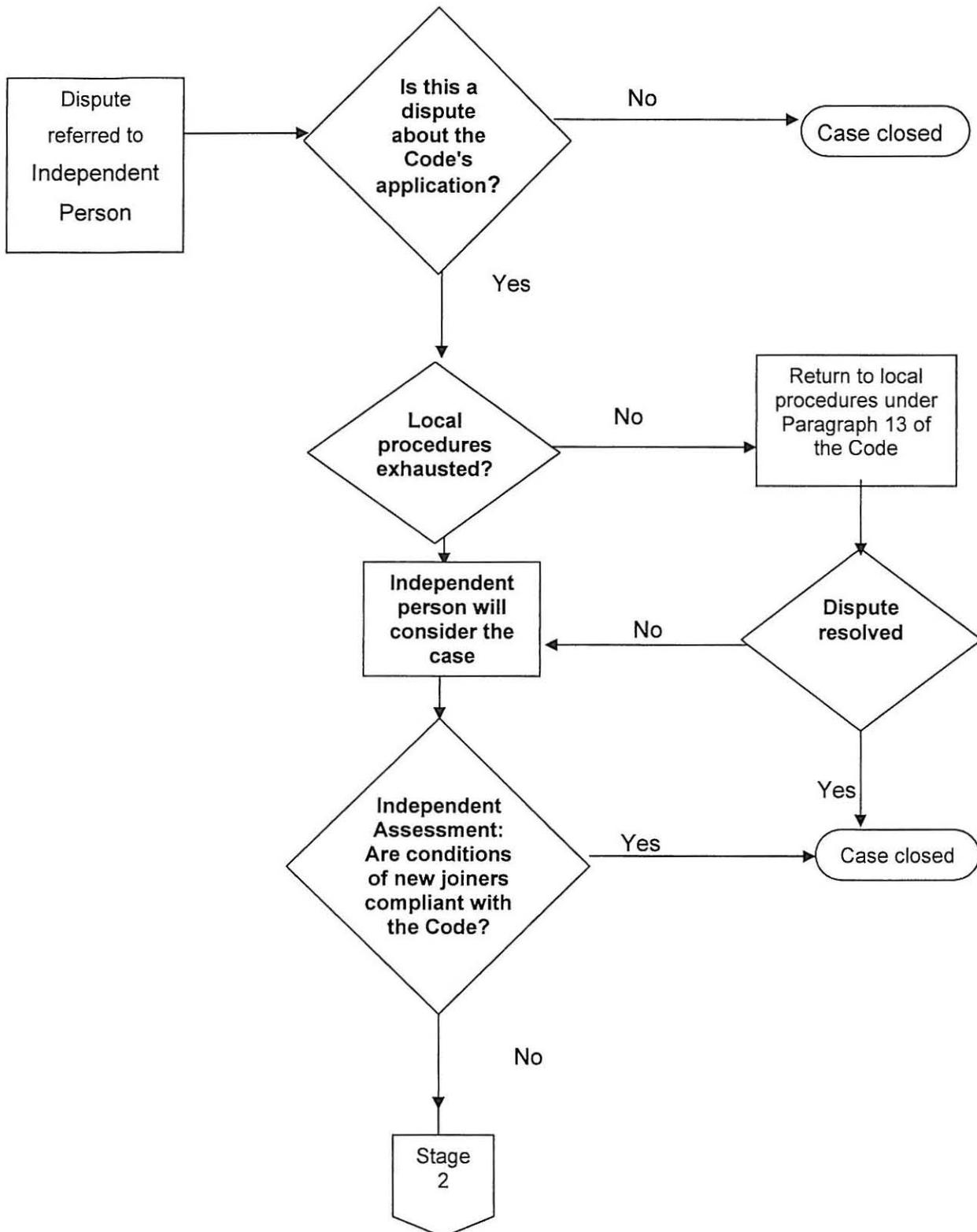
- 1.3.1 The independent person invites the parties to make final submissions. If the independent person then believes it would be worthwhile, the parties may be given a short period of further discussion.

- 1.3.2 If there is no value in giving the parties more time - or if during any discussion the parties were unable to agree on how to bring the matter to a successful conclusion - then the independent person will proceed to a final binding arbitration. Having heard the evidence and reached a conclusion the independent person will impose a revised package of terms and conditions applicable to each of the affected employees.

Time limit - Ten (10) Business Days

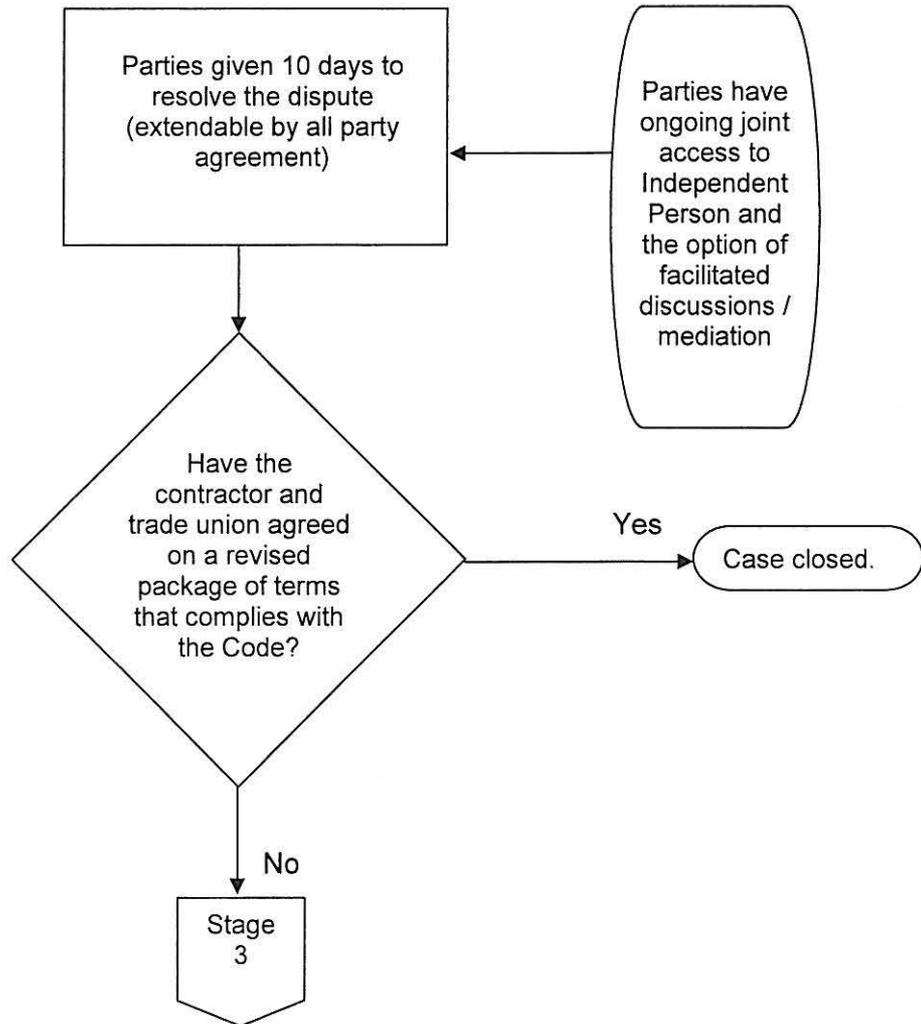
2. STAGE 1

Referral to Independent Person and Execution of Independent Assessment (Twenty (20) Business Days in total from the point when ADR is invoked)



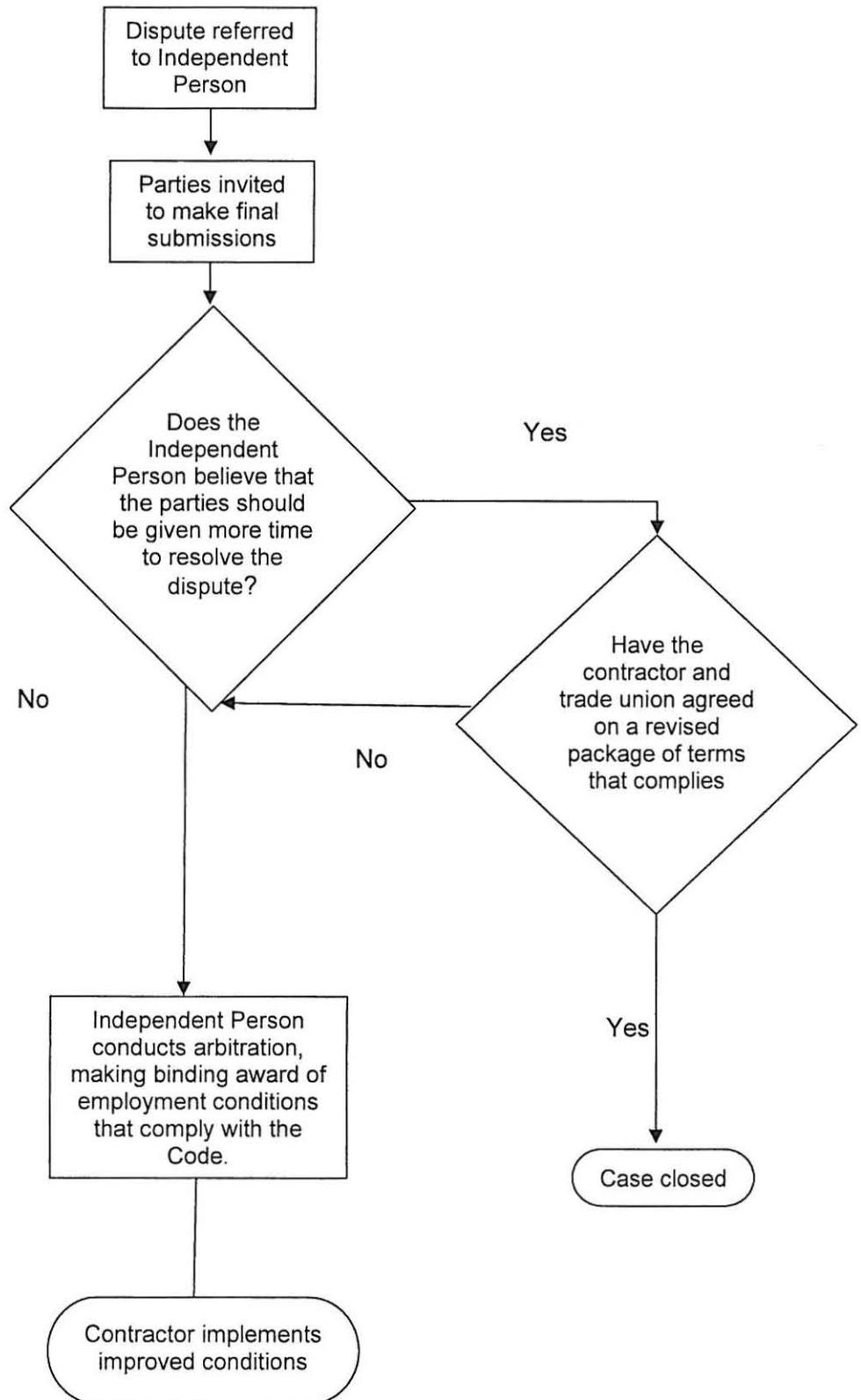
3. **STAGE 2**

Parties given time to resolve the dispute, with ongoing joint access to the Independent Person and with the option of mediation (Ten (10) Business Days, extendable by agreement)



4. **STAGE 3**

Final submissions and Arbitration (Ten (10) Business Days)





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