# Woman Awarded Compensation for Pregnancy Discrimination and Unfair Dismissal at Somerset Cheese Company



Storm Botha, 34, has been awarded £19,266.93 in compensation after an employment tribunal found she faced pregnancy discrimination and unfair dismissal from her role at White Lake Cheese in Somerset. Botha, who started at the company in September 2020 as a 'cheese-making assistant' before transitioning to marketing roles, faced demotion and pay cuts after revealing her pregnancy to a colleague in August 2021.

The tribunal found that Roger Longman, the managing director, had demoted Botha to a lower-paid, manual role involving heavy lifting and reduced her hourly wage. Longman claimed he was unaware of her pregnancy at the time of demotion. However, Employment Judge Martha Street ruled that he knew about the pregnancy before the meeting leading to her demotion. Botha experienced significant stress, resulting in panic attacks and a miscarriage in November 2021. She was eventually dismissed from the company in December 2021.

The tribunal noted that the actions constituted pregnancy-related discrimination, resulting in Botha's distress and job insecurity.