# **Contemporary HRM**



# Reward Management Laura Gerard



## Learning objectives

- Explore rewards, reward strategies and their use in organisations
- Outline how business and reward strategy relate to one another
- Discuss characteristics of reward strategies and analyse what contributes to their effectiveness
- Consider fixed versus variable payment systems and critically evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the total reward approach



#### What is reward?

- Reward refers to all of the monetary, non-monetary & psychological payments that an organisation provides for its employees in exchange for the work they perform (Armstrong, 2004)
- All the financial returns and tangible services and benefits employees receive (Milkovich and Newman, 2004)
- The rewards people receive are in accordance to their value to an organisation and represent a core aspect of the employment relationship



# Why are rewards important?

- Motivation and performance levels
- Commitment to the organisation
- Job satisfaction and engagement

#### **Hygiene Factors** Salaries, Wages & other Benefits Company Policy & Administration Good Inter-personal Relationships Quality of Supervision Job Security Working Conditions Work/Life Balance When in place, these factors result in... General Satisfaction Prevention of Dissatisfaction

#### **Motivator Factors**

- Sense of Personal Achievement
- Status
- Recognition
- Challenging/stimulating Work
- Responsibility
- Opportunity for advancement
- Promotion
  - Growth

# When in place, these factors result in...

- High Motivation
- High Satisfaction
- Strong Commitment





# **Terminology related to Reward Management**

- Compensation sometimes used to refer to pay, but more commonly in relation to payment for injury
- Reward broad definition; applies to both monetary and non-monetary payments
- Remuneration same as pay
- Pay monetary and non-monetary payment
- Wages paid weekly/hourly
- Salaries Usually based on a yearly payment amount (paid monthly)
   Adapted from Foot and Hook (2005:301)



# Types of rewards

- Extrinsic reward Tangible or transactional reward for undertaking work e.g. salary, incentive and benefits.
- Intrinsic reward derived from work and employment e.g. environmental rewards (physical surroundings, values of the organisation) Development –oriented rewards (L&D opportunities, career advancement)



## **The Reward Strategy**

This is a business focused statement of the intentions of the organisation concerning the development of future reward processes & practices which are aligned to the business & human resource strategies of the organisation, its culture & the environment in which it operates (Armstrong, 2007)

When formulating reward strategy, there are 3 basic questions to answer:

- 1. Where are we now?
- 2. Where do we want to be?
- 3. What's the business case?



## **Management Approach to Reward**

Generally, the approach to reward strategies adopted by employers takes one of three forms:

- Focus on service characterised by open-ended agreements about continuity of employment, incremental pay scales ad annual reviews.
- Focus on skills produces higher rates of pay with greater skills.
- 3. Focus on performance emphasises target setting, adapting to change and a close relationship between what the employee achieves and what the employee is paid.



Examples of Business Strategy linked to the Reward Strategy thereby achieving integration

# **BUSINESS STRATEGY**

Achieve added value by improving

Achieve competitive advantage by

Achieve competitive advantage by

delivering better value and quality

Achieving competitive advantage

retaining high quality employees

by attracting, developing and

performance or productivity

technological development

to customers

Achieve added value by improving

plans – IPRP or team rewards motivation

Introduce or improve performance pay

processes

Introduce or improve performance pay

Introduce competence or skills based pay

Recognise and reward individuals and

customer service & quality standards

Reward people for developing their

competencies and careers.

Ensure that rates of pay are competitive.

teams for meeting and exceeding

plans and performance management

REWARD STRATEGY

### Consider...



- 1. Which reward goals (when designing the company reward strategy) would be most critical for a technology based company e.g. Microsoft/Apple?
- 2. Which reward goals (when designing the company reward strategy) would be most critical for a non-profit company e.g. red cross?
- Which reward goals would you value most and why?



### Research evidence from the CIPD (2008)

- Drivers of reward strategy
  - Recruit & retain key talent
  - Reward high performers
  - Support business goals
- Widespread acknowledgement that there is no "right way" to manage pay.
- Individual contribution/merit is now the dominant factor in determining pay progression.
- Skills based pay continues to decline and regional rates are growing in popularity
- 30% of organisations claim a "Total Reward" approach



## Features of an Effective Reward Strategy

- ✓ They have clearly defined goals & well defined link to business objectives
- ✓ Well designed pay & reward programmes tailored to the needs of the organisation & its people
- Based on corporate values and beliefs
- ✓ Flows from the business strategy (contributes to it)
- Is congruent with the culture & the internal & external environment of the organisation
- Linked with business performance
- Has been evolved with consultation with key stakeholders





#### Consider...

- 1. What the main objectives of employee reward can be from an employer's point of view and an employee's point of view?
- What are organisations paying for (whether through pay or their reward strategy)?



# **Objectives of reward systems**

#### **Employer Perspective**

- Prestige
- Competition
- Control
- Motivation
- Performance
- Cost

#### **Employee Perspective**

- Purchasing power
- 'Felt-fair'
- Right to fair pay
- Internal & external relativities
- Recognition
- Composition

Source: Torrington *et al.* (2005:596 – 601)



What are organisations paying for?

Contribution

Competence (input)

Performance (output)

PA Y

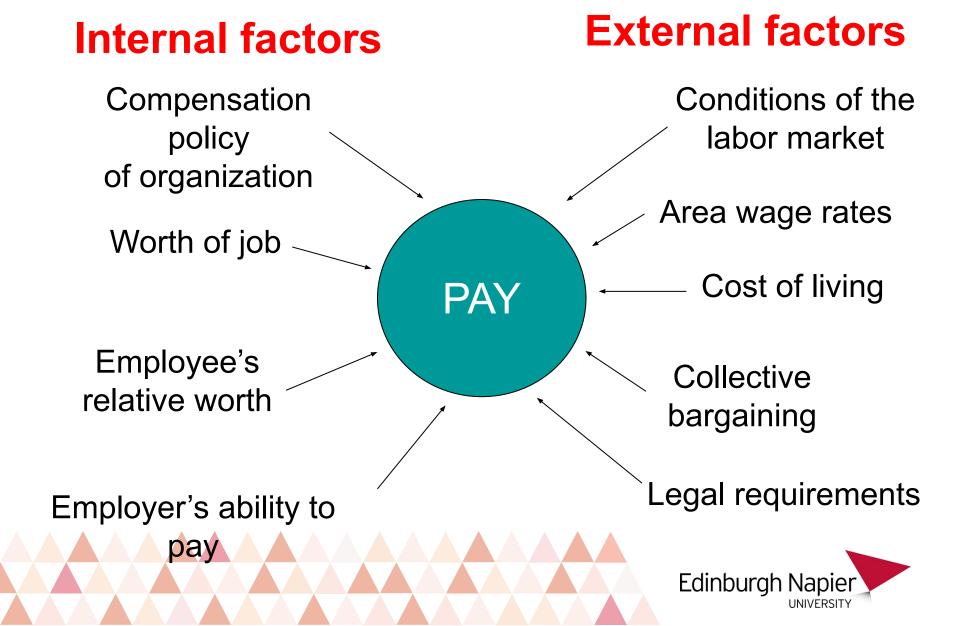
External Relativities

Internal Relativities

Potential Contribution



### Factors affecting the strategic reward system



# In your opinion... Are these statements correct? Why?

- Diverse organisational strategies and cultures require different reward strategies.
- The usefulness of different reward strategies, policies and practices varies according to context.
- It cannot be assumed that any one reward practice will have an equal effect on all those who experience it, as not everyone is motivated in the same way.



# Common pitfalls of developing reward strategies

 The organisation focuses on financial incentives and little else

- 2. Perks only apply to the office environment
- 3. Employee opinions and inputs are ignored
- 4. A one-size-fits-all approach is undertaken



### Different types of reward system



### Two main categories:

- 1. Fixed payment systems = Those that don't vary in relation to achievements
- 2. Variable payment systems = Those that vary in relation to results, profits, or performance (based on payment by results or performance related pay)



### Type 1: Fixed payment systems

Based on job/time which can involve;

- Hourly rates
- Day rates
- Weekly wage
- Annual salary

#### Or alternatively based on:

- Competence qualifications and/experience
- Seniority age/tenure



# Type 2a): Variable Payment Systems – Payment by results

- □ Piece work/commission
- Individual time saving
- Measured day work
- Small group incentives
- Large group incentives gainsharing
- Profit sharing cash-based/share-based

Rewards according to a set formula or output



# Type 2b): Variable Payment Systems – Performance-related pay

- Skill-based schemes developing competencies
- Merit-based schemes
- Goal-based schemes

Varies depending upon actual performance

Non monetary rewards

Flexible benefits systems/cafeteria style pay



## **Group Discussion...**



What are the advantages and disadvantages of performance related payment (PRP) systems?



### **Advantages of PRP**

- Employees are able to influence performance by changing their behaviour
- The reward is clearly & closely linked to the effort of the individual or group
- Employees are clear about the targets & standards of performance needed & can measure their own performance against these targets
- Performance can be measured with fairness & consistency
- The pay system uses a clearly defined & understood formula
- Can encourage an entrepreneurial & performance oriented culture

# **Disadvantages of PRP**

- Encourages compliance rather than commitment
- Short-term motivation Hertzberg (1966)
- Unlikely to improve poor performance
- Stifle creativity and innovation
- Reliance on line manager's skills as assessors
- Can lead to Equal Pay claims

Source: Torrington et al. (2014)



#### **Total Reward**

- Takes a holistic approach to reward management -'extrinsic' and 'intrinsic' rewards
- Combines a number of elements

"Combines the traditional pay and benefits elements with the other things that employees gain from employment: skills, experience, opportunity and recognition" (Redman and Wilkinson, 2006:128)

Video containing explanations of total reward management - <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuH2oWCrxmU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuH2oWCrxmU</a>



# **Benefits of the Total Reward Approach**

- Increased flexibility tailored to particular challenges and circumstances
- Recruitment and retention
- Reduced cost
- Heightened visibility in a tight labour market to attract critical talent
- Enhanced profitability direct links can be forged between employee motivation and product/service quality



# **Activity...**



Review case study – Designing reward systems (Redman and Wilkinson, 2009:170)

- 1. Are the above companies utilising the appropriate reward scheme? Should they be using other rewards as part of their overall package? What would you advise these companies?
- 2. Take an example of a company you know and design a reward system, explaining the reasons for your design and ensuring that it incorporates the company's culture, strategy, employees etc. Would you use the same system for all employees within the company?



#### **Current trends in UK reward management**

- Organisations are looking at pay structures that promote:
  - Acquisition of new skills
  - Increased flexibility
  - Greater awareness of business requirements
  - Linking individual/team pay to organisational well-being
- Linking pay to performance
- Harmonisation
- Flexible or 'cafeteria' style benefits
- Total reward

Source: ACAS (2006)





# How do you make the most of limited reward budgets to keep employees engaged?

#### Leadership

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Applying focus to line managers, acknowledging their difficult situation in motivating employees.
Supporting them to think through how best to engage their team.

Creating clear
accountability for
engagement processes,
so that managers
understand what is
required of them and
performance against
objectives is clearly
measured

#### **Development**



Providing international opportunities and project assignments to ensure staff feel that they are progressing and challenged.

Source: HayGroup (2011)





# How do you make the most of limited reward budgets to keep employees engaged?



Employee staff discount schemes – the challenge is in reminding staff of what's available and offering the right type of discounts to appeal to different earnings levels.



Greater use of voluntary
benefit schemes e.g.
childcare, cycle to work,
discounted car parking at
work, travel loans for
trains, green lease car
scheme.

#### **Benefits**



Focusing on high impact benefits that don't cost much, e.g. free breakfast for employees on a Monday, petrol vouchers. Publish the monthly savings staff make through discount schemes.



Providing a breadth of benefits choice and allow employees to take control of selecting the benefits that suit their lifestyle.



Recognising long service with meaningful awards that employees really value.



Creating alliances
between organisations
to access more
attractive flexible
benefits, complementary
services.

Source: HayGroup (2011)





# How do you make the most of limited reward budgets to keep employees engaged?

#### Flexible Working



Increasing use of flexible working as a way of giving employees 'more' when pay levels have been frozen or reduced.



Capitalising on technology to support the organisation in introducing flexible working practices and changing the culture of 'presenteeism'.

#### Communications



Increasing employee control of their choices and communication. Using online interfaces so employees can log in at any time to see their individual benefits package.



Acting transparently to explain to employees what their reward package is and how it compares internally and externally – providing a clear statement of reward positioning against the market.



Using "roadshows"
to explain to
employees what they
are offered – rather
than taking for
granted that it is
understood



Consistent and clear communications so that reward package is understood. Open follow up with employees so they know where they stand— use of message boards, forums.

Source: HayGroup (2011)

Edinburgh Napier

#### Conclusion

- Contemporary organisations are looking for ways to use rewards as a means of attracting and retaining their employees
- Reward strategies are influenced by a wide range of internal and external factors with increasing focus being placed on rewarding employees for their performance and a flexible total reward approach
- Reward strategies need to be linked to organisational strategies but this can often be complex as rewards are contractual and difficult to change when organisational strategies change

