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Uber Loses Drivers’ Challenge In U.K.

Decision issued by the Supreme Court is a setback for gig-economy companies

The U.K.’s top court ruled that a group of former drivers for Uber Technologies Inc. settled to a minimum wage and other benefits while working for the company was entitled to being an employee under the gig-economy model.

The Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, upheld take-home earnings in the U.K. who work for companies in the gig economy, independent contractors who actually render services to a pool of people rather than to a single entity. The case could set a precedent for others to seek employment status.

While Friday’s decision directly applies only to the former Uber drivers involved, it has the potential precedent for others to seek employment status.

Uber and other gig-economy companies have been criticized for not paying workers enough for the time and effort they put in while offering them incentive payments instead of employee benefits.

The decision also indicates that the gig-economy model has to be adjusted to make sure workers don’t have their rights cut out of the equation.

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