IF I AM STAYING

My change plan

Four days a week in the same job, with Friday outdoors, and two evenings a week that end at six.

In place by 1 February 2027.

WHAT I KEEP

My job and the people in it, the flat, my sister ten minutes away, and the Thursday market.

THE SMALL TEST I RUN FIRST

Already done: four weeks of evenings that ended at six, 22 September to 15 October 2026, and one unpaid Friday on 9 October, before I put the request in writing.

IF I AM STAYING

The order I will do it in

1

4 NOVEMBER 2026

Have an initial conversation with my manager

What must be true first: Nothing yet. This one is a conversation, not a request

2

2 NOVEMBER 2026

Set aside the difference between my pay and €2,360 for a month

What must be true first: Last three months of spending in front of me

3

1 DECEMBER 2026

Put the request in writing, with two months' notice

What must be true first: A yes in principle, and the result of the budget month

4

JANUARY 2027

Take a corner of a neighbour's allotment

What must be true first: Tools and boots

5

5 FEBRUARY 2027

First Friday outdoors

What must be true first: The four-day week in place

MONEY AND BUFFER

€2,360 a month from 1 February 2027, confirmed, against €2,210 of costs. The €6,600 emergency reserve stays untouched. It covers just under three months at the planned monthly cost of €2,210.

HOURS I DECIDE, BEFORE AND AFTER

About 16 hours a week now and 26 after the change. Three of those 26 are at the allotment.

IF I AM STAYING

What it rests on, and the way back

WHO I TELL

My sister first, then my manager, then the team. From my sister I need a standing Friday, so somebody is expecting me.

MY FIRST 90 DAYS

4 November 2026, the conversation. By 4 December 2026, two evenings a week that really end at six and a month of figures. By 1 February 2027, the four-day week in place.

WHAT IS STILL UNCERTAIN

What the lower pay does to my pension over ten years. Whether I keep the Friday in January, when it is dark and wet.

MY PLAN B

Before changing my hours, I will ask whether I can return to five days and get any agreement in writing. If four days is refused, I keep the two evenings and ask again after six months, with one unpaid day a month meanwhile. If the lower pay does not add up, I go back to five days for a season rather than spend the reserve.

I look at this again on 1 May 2027, and again on 1 February 2028. Staying is a decision like any other, and this is the plan that goes with it.