



01 April 2019

Dear Colleague,

Since the National Minimum Wage was introduced it has benefitted the lowest paid in society, and today we continue that protection by increasing the National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage further.

Since we announced the National Living Wage in 2015, it has helped protect the lowest paid – increasing wages faster than inflation and average earnings. Today, a full-time worker receiving National Living Wage will be more than £2,750 better off over the year compared to when it was first announced in 2015.

Today's changes mean:

- the National Living Wage will go up by the highest rate since it was first introduced, increasing by almost 5% to £8.21 per hour,
- the National Minimum Wage will increase to £7.70 for 21 to 24-year olds, £6.15 for 18 to 20-year olds, £4.35 for 16 to 17-year olds and £3.90 for apprentices,
- 2.1 million workers set to directly benefit from today's increases; and
- Altogether an estimated 5 million people will directly or indirectly benefit from the new NLW / NMW increases.

Our changes are benefitting workers in communities across the country, and below is a breakdown of the estimated number of workers benefitting from today's increases that colleagues may find useful.

Region	Number of workers directly benefitting from increase
North West	268,000
South East	219,000
West Midlands	214,000
Yorkshire & Humber	209,000
London	184,000
East Midlands	193,000
East	177,000
South West	168,000
Scotland	159,000
Wales	114,000
North East	107,000
Northern Ireland	95,000

Through our modern Industrial Strategy, we are committed to making sure that workers get a fair day's pay and the rise in the National Living and Minimum Wage, benefiting millions of people, delivers on this commitment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Tolhurst". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

KELLY TOLHURST MP
Minister for Small Business, Consumers & Corporate Responsibility