



Bulletin 140

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New National Minimum Wage Rates

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has confirmed the new rates of the National Minimum Wage to apply from October 2009. For workers aged 22 and over, the rate will rise from the current GBP 5.73 per hour to GBP 5.80; for workers aged 18 to 21 it will rise from GBP 4.77 to GBP 4.83; and for workers aged 16 and 17 it will rise from GBP 3.53 to GBP 3.57.

The Government also announced that the adult rate will be extended to 21-year-olds from October 2010, following a recommendation made by the Low Pay Commission (LPC). The LPC also proposed that information on employers who have shown wilful disregard for minimum wage laws should be made available and the Government has committed to consider and develop this proposal.

The LPC states in its annual report to the Government that this year's increase, like all those since 2006, is smaller to take account of prevailing economic conditions. Previously, the minimum wage had been rising faster than average earnings.

Practical Tip

The minimum wage laws are not optional - employers must keep up to date and ensure that they achieve full compliance.

If you require any specific advice in connection with the material contained in this bulletin, or on any other Employment Law issues, please contact: Paul Chamberlain in Manchester on 0161 836 8864, Andrew Cross in Liverpool on 0151 600 3062 or Kevin James in Preston on 01772 229847.

If you no longer wish to receive the bulletin please let us know by return e-mail to helen.calvert@brabnerscs.com

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