



Oifig an Aire Fiontar, Trádála agus Nuálaíochta  
Office of the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation

Our Ref: **102238/MIN**  
Your Ref: **M1/1210**

W January 2011

Ms Mary Maguire  
Meetings Administrator  
Corporate Services Department  
South Dublin County Council  
County Hall  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24

Dear Ms Maguire


The Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, Mr. Batt O'Keeffe TD, has asked me to refer further to your representations concerning the National Minimum Wage which were forwarded to this Department by the Department of Social Protection for direct reply to you.

The Government's announcement of its intention to reduce the national minimum wage constitutes one element among a range of labour market reforms outlined in the National Recovery Plan 2011-2014 (published on the 24th of November 2010) that include the removal of barriers to job creation and the development of new labour market activation and welfare policies. The adjustment of the national minimum wage to a rate more suited to current economic circumstances and the specific needs of the labour market today should contribute to improving Ireland's cost competitiveness, stimulate enterprise growth and boost job creation.

I should also point out that even after the proposed reduction to €7.65 per hour, the new rate of Ireland's national minimum hourly wage will remain in the top tier of minimum wage rates set by European Union Member States and will be about 12% higher than the equivalent minimum hourly rate applicable in the United Kingdom.

I trust that this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

  
Wendy Gray  
Private Secretary