



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

Our Ref: **110023/MIN**

 February 2011

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

Dear Ms Maguire

The Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, Ms Mary Hanafin, has asked me to refer further to your representations concerning the National Minimum Wage which were forwarded to this Department by the Department of Finance for direct reply to you.

On 18 January 2011, the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation signed SI No 13 of 2011 – National Minimum Wage Act 2000 (Section 11) Order 2011 – which sets the national minimum hourly rate of pay from 1 February 2011 at €7.65.

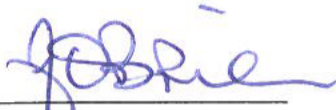
This measure constitutes one element among a range of labour market reforms outlined in the National Recovery Plan 2011-2014 (published on the 24th of November 2010) that include the removal of barriers to job creation and the development of new labour market activation and welfare policies. The adjustment 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 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