

From the Office of the Minister



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Our Ref: DETI COR 400/2012

Mr David Norgrove
Chairman
Low Pay Commission
6th Floor
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LONDON
WC1B 4AD

17 September 2012

Dear Mr Norgrove

CONSULTATION ON THE NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE

I have been asked by the First Minister and deputy First Minister to reply to your 22 June letter.

There are no specific Northern Ireland issues to bring to your attention in relation to the National Minimum Wage (NMW).

The Minister for Social Development, Nelson McCausland, has asked me to confirm that he plans to introduce legislation providing for the introduction of Universal Credit in Northern Ireland. Using a read across from Department for Work and Pensions figures, the Department for Social Development (DSD) has made an early estimate that Universal Credit will lift over 34,000 individuals, including 10,000 children, out of poverty. The Department is continuing to try to refine its statistical modelling data and will publish revised data on the impact of Universal Credit as it becomes available.

The Minister for Social Development also notes that the Low Pay Commission has undertaken to monitor pension reforms in future years and consider the impact as firms of different size join and as contributions increase. He looks forward to seeing the outcome of this proposed monitoring and the recommendations it gives rise to.

I understand that the Minister for Employment and Learning, Stephen Farry, intends to write to you separately in relation to the NMW for apprentices.

I am copying this letter to the First Minister and deputy First Minister and to the Ministers for Social Development and Employment and Learning.

Yours sincerely

ARLENE FOSTER MLA
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment