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25 September 2014

Mr Tim Butcher
Low Pay Commission
6th Floor, Victoria House
Southampton Row
LONDON
WC1B 4AD
Email: lpc@lowpay.gov.uk

Dear Mr Butcher

I write in response to the Government's consultation regarding the National Minimum Wage rates in the UK. With the progress made by the present Coalition Government and its firm commitment to reduction of national debt over a long period, we feel now is the time to increase the NMW. In addition, the fall in unemployment makes this suggestion even more important to implement in the immediate future.

It is a known fact that those in the lower paid sector, when their pay is increased, spend money in the community which in turn helps to boost the economy and drive economic upturn. For instance, it is an interesting parallel situation to reflect upon in the USA, that a 2009 study to be found at http://www.epi.org/page/-/IssueBrief255_Final.pdf which was made by the Economic Policy Institute in the USA, estimates that Obama's campaign pledge to raise the minimum wage to \$9.50 by 2011 would inject \$60 billion in additional spending into the economy.

I also understand the adult minimum wage in Australia is \$16.37 per hour (approx. £9 GBP) which means that the present level of NMW in the United Kingdom is somewhat trailing behind that of other progressive countries elsewhere in the world.

I am pleased to report that the Partners of Hines of Oxford fully support the present Government's consultation and apparent intention to increase the NMW, which we consider to be both necessary and economically prudent at this time.

Yours sincerely,

H Bruce Robertson
Senior Partner
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