

DÁIL ÉIREANN

Fógra Tairisceanna: Notice of Motion

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

“That Dáil Éireann:

notes that:

- according to the Central Statistics Office, 137,200 workers reported earning the national minimum wage or less in the fourth quarter of 2018;
- female workers are currently more likely than male workers to earn the national minimum wage or less;
- half of all those earning the national minimum wage or less in the fourth quarter of 2018 were aged 24 years or under;
- according to Social Justice Ireland, 110,000 workers are living at risk of poverty across the State;
- the current living wage stands at €12.30 per hour, as calculated by the Living Wage Technical Group;
- according to the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, the ‘no-deal Brexit caveat’ contained in the Low Pay Commission’s report makes absolutely no reference whatsoever to a possible deferral of the recommended increase in the national minimum wage in the event of a no-deal Brexit;
- there are legal protections currently in place for those companies who can show they cannot afford to pay the national minimum wage; and
- there is no legal obligation on businesses who can afford to pay their workers a living wage to do so;

condemns the Government’s recent decision not to increase the national minimum wage;

agrees that:

- the decision by the Government not to increase the national minimum wage or introduce a living wage will place further financial pressure on thousands of workers and families who need a break;
- work must pay now and not just at some undetermined time in the future;
- proper wages and the eradication of precarious working practices should be the essential foundations of economic growth and productivity; and
- the implementation of a living wage would play a critical role in ending in-work poverty and reducing the financial pressure on many households; and

calls on the Government to:

- recognise the huge contribution low paid workers make to the Irish economy;
- immediately reverse its decision not to increase the national minimum wage; and
- introduce a living wage of €12.30 per hour in 2020, with appropriate legal protections for those small- or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) who can show they cannot afford to pay the living wage.” — *Maurice Quinlivan, Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, Gerry Adams, John Brady, Pat Buckley, Seán Crowe, David Cullinane, Pearse Doherty, Dessie Ellis, Martin Ferris, Kathleen Funchion, Martin Kenny, Mary Lou McDonald,*

Denise Mitchell, Imelda Munster, Jonathan O'Brien, Eoin Ó Broin, Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire, Louise O'Reilly, Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Brian Stanley.

[11 October, 2019]