

# CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FEDERATION

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## **RE: Submission to the Low Pay Commission on behalf of the Construction Industry Federation on the National Minimum Wage**

The Construction Industry Federation (CIF) is the national and regional representative body for construction industry employers.

The CIF appreciates the opportunity to make a submission on the matter of the national minimum wage in Ireland. The national minimum wage generally does not apply to the Construction Industry. However, it can have an effect on construction workers' rates of pay.

Up until the Supreme Court decision that struck down Registered Employment Agreements (REAs) in 2013, there was a REA for the Construction Industry between the various craft unions. The rates agreed within the REA were always above minimum wage for construction workers.

With the fall of the REA's in 2013, many workers maintained the terms and conditions that were set out in the previously registered employment agreement. Nevertheless, the industry generally pay over the national minimum wage.

In light of the nature of the work and in order to attract people into the industry, construction rates are set above the national minimum wage. Therefore, an increase to the national minimum wage will have the impact of driving up construction worker rates of pay. It is important that such rates are at a level that is sustainable for the industry. The CIF would like the Low Pay Commission to consider this if setting a new national minimum wage.

END

