

[REDACTED]
CC:

Date: 27/02/2016 16:01:55

Subject: NMW - REVIEW AND PROPOSED INCREASES

[REDACTED] PHARMACY Tipperary

RE – PROPOSED MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES

Sir,

I note with interest and concern the recent public discussions and promises to increase the national minimum wage rate. I run a small business with a mixture of permanent full time and shorter time employees (10 employees). As I see things Ireland is already too expensive to set up and run a small business. I have experienced a steady increase in the costs associated with running my business while having major revenue cuts imposed by government . To date I have protected all employees terms while my business is down -34% and continuing to fall . Further increases to our costs cannot be taken on without negatively impacting our current employees. This WILL result in hours / days and/ or full jobs being cut in addition to topline hourly rates being cut for some. A small business must operate within its budgets and income streams irregardless of sentiment and media / political comment .

On a recent trip to Lisbon , Portugal I discovered the going rates for pharmacy employees (qualified staff and non qualified staff) with shock . Hourly rates in Ireland are in the region of 4 times portugese rates .. eg a 3 year qualified pharmacist working 5 days earns 12000.00 per annum in their capital city (irish min wage gives ca. 19000.00 pa for NON qualified staff – a massive difference in cost) . If Ireland continues on this move upwards with NMW rates we will quickly find a lot of people losing jobs and our country not able to compete internationally . I respect everyones right to earn a living wage but if business costs continue to rise above business income trends the golden goose is goosed !

Reduce the cost of living (most recent costs increased are government / public body costs) and there is no need to keep this inflationary cycle going. I pay my regulator approx. 3000.00 pa to keep my business registered / licenced – in Northern Ireland the equivalent registration fee is approx. 300.00 stg . I am also not permitted by my regulator to buy in product direct from other European countries which adds significantly to product costs. Official Ireland is indirectly costing the Irish public / and businesses a fortune thus foes aheeding a higher cost of living which then feeds a demand for higher wages. Its very simple – cut the cost of doing business for everyone and NOT the easy touch NMW rate .

I trust you can convey my thoughts to the decision / policy makers. I do not wish to start to cut hours / days / rates / jobs but I certainly will be if these proposed increases go ahead.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]