

From: XXX
To: "secretarylpc@djei.ie" <secretarylpc@djei.ie>
CC:
Date: 08/01/2017 22:47:13
Subject: Re: Rates for Board and Lodgings Submissions

Dear Sirs,

I am writing in connection with public consultation for the rates for Board and Lodgings. I am assuming the revision originated as part of the "Aupair Case" in 2016, where a family lost a case for failing to meet their requirements as outlined in the indictment.

As I only know the case through the media, I cannot comment on a particular case, however as a mother and member of the society I would like to point out that if the current rates are correct, why do we have homeless? Why is the dole and the rent allowance in accordance to your own rates.

I am a civil servant, Clerical Officer, as you can appreciate the wages for a clerical officer does not stretch to a great quality of life, however, it was my choice and I am quite happy in my work. However, the Haddington Road Agreement imposed that I should work until 5.45pm, and that would be ok when I was single and no dependants, however, now that my kids go to school if I was in full-time employment I will not be able to pick them up until 6.30pm/7pm. There is not after-school that accommodate those hours. We studied the possibility of an aupair, as the hours of work would be from 2.30 to 6.30/7pm, preparing to pay 150eur, and full board and lodging (Please bear in mind that at the end of the week with my wages I don't have 150eur pocket money for myself!!!!), but the Aupair case and the obligations as a family are too much burden on our domestic economy.

The result being that I have to cut my hours of work, is that equality?? I am not an one of case, most women at the lower end of pay have to stop working or cut their ours. Surely you can appreciate that will put us in less favorable conditions than our peers without family commitments this is because:

- a) The Haddington Road Agreement hours never considered people with children that would need after school care
- b) The current rates for Board and Lodging are unrealistic, and if anybody can find a place for those rates, please let me know and I move my entire family to it.

To compensate and balance the expenditure we looked into the rent-a-room scheme, I could earn 190eur per week from a student. That it is more realistic than the figures the legislation covers. The rent-a-room tax scheme allows to earn up to 12k per year, that is not including meals. The difference is significant!!! Should they not be in line?

Considering that even the 190eur depending on the area and food provided are not with current rent prices (Dublin average rent for 3semi, is 1,375eur, of course, the landlord that not include meals)

For the all the above, please study carefully the rates, and don't always assume that the family are better of than the aupair/ worker.

Kind Regards,

XXX