

10th January 2017

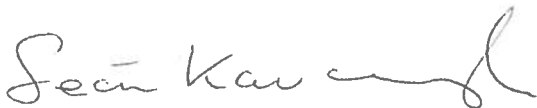
The Low Pay Commission

Board & Lodgings Allowance

I would like you to take the following points into consideration when reviewing the board and lodgings allowance:

1. Setting a realistic rate would encourage more employers to provide accommodation for their employees and ease pressure on the rental sector. Employees would decide for themselves if they wish to live in our live out. The current rate of €54.13 is a disincentive for employers to provide accommodation.
2. The value of a having one's own bedroom and not sharing. There needs to be two full-board rates, one for sharing and one for single occupancy. I expect some employers may offer shared dormitories.
3. The amount paid by language schools to families to host a student in a single room. We ourselves pay families €175 per week for an academic year student, €190 per week for a summer camp student and €290 per week for an immersion student (not school going).
4. The possibility of having a separate rate for cultural-exchange au pairs who do not want to be employees (but are forced to be) and enjoy extra benefits not usually associated with employers.

Thanking you for your time.



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