

# Press release: £1.7m back pay identified for a record 16,000 workers as 260 employers are named for underpaying minimum wage rates

- Government has identified £1.7 million in back pay for 16,000 workers – more workers than in any previous naming round.
- 260 employers named and fined a total of £1.3 million for underpaying the National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates. \*Retail, hospitality and hairdressing were the most prolific sectors named in this round.
- In Wales, nine employers were named , amounting to £11,000 in arrears, £9000 in penalties, affecting 14 workers.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) today (8 December) named 260 employers for failing to pay 16,000 workers at least minimum wage rates.

Government investigators identified £1.7 million in back pay for some of the UK's lowest paid workers and fined employers £1.3 million for underpayment.

Retail, hairdressing and hospitality businesses were among the most prolific offenders in this round. Common reasons for errors made include: failing to pay workers travelling between jobs, deducting money from pay for uniforms and not paying for overtime.

## **Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns said:**

It is unacceptable for employers not to pay their staff the wages they should receive.

Today's announcement shows how the UK Government is clamping down on the nine employers in Wales who have failed to pay their staff the National Minimum Wage.

I encourage employees who think they are being underpaid to seek Government advice to ensure they receive what they're entitled to.

The UK Government is working hard to create the right conditions for economic growth and job creation in Wales, but without compromising employee rights.

## **Business Minister Margot James said:**

There is no excuse for not paying staff the wages they're entitled

to and the government will come down hard on businesses that break the rules.

That's why today we are naming hundreds of employers who have been short changing their workers; and to ensure there are consequences for their wallets as well as their reputation, we've levied millions in back pay and fines.

### **Bryan Sanderson, Chairman of the Low Pay Commission, said:**

The Low Pay Commission's conversations with employers suggest that the risk of being named is encouraging businesses to focus on compliance.

Further, it is good to see that HMRC continues to target large employers who have underpaid a large number of workers, as well as cases involving only a few workers, where workers are at risk of the most serious exploitation. It is imperative that the government keeps up the pressure on all employers who commit breaches of minimum wage law.

If workers are concerned they are not being paid the correct rates then they can seek advice from workplace experts Acas.

Since 2013, the scheme has identified £8 million in back pay for 58,000 workers, with 1,500 employers fined a total of £5 million. This year the government will spend a record £25.3 million on minimum wage enforcement.

Rates will rise again in April 2018, giving young workers in particular the biggest pay boost in a decade.

For more information about your pay, or if you think you might be being underpaid, [visit the dedicated National Minimum and Living Wage website](#)

### **The Welsh firms identified were:**

- Mr Martin Brindley Station Cars, Wrexham LL11, failed to pay £5,303.74 to 1 worker.
- Total Site Maintenance Limited, Neath Port Talbot SA12, failed to pay £3,176.62 to 127 workers.
- Brynamman One Stop Limited, Neath Port Talbot SA18, failed to pay £1,252.76 to 1 worker.
- Ron Skinner & Sons Ltd, Blaenau Gwent NP22, failed to pay £863.5 to 2 workers.
- Rothwell & Robertson Limited trading as Ye Olde Bull's Head Inn, Isle of Anglesey LL58, failed to pay £627.53 to 1 worker.
- Men At Work (Wales) Limited, Conwy LL31, failed to pay £310.8 to 1 worker.
- Mr Stephen Gomes trading as Moksh, Cardiff CF10, failed to pay £263.22 to 2 workers.

- Vale Holiday Parks Limited, Ceredigion SY23, failed to pay £213.38 to 2 workers.
- Schoolhouse Daycare Limited trading as Swansea DVLA Schoolhouse Daycare, Swansea SA6, failed to pay £125.37 to 1 worker