

[Low Pay Commission welcomes new remit from Government](#)

In [today's 2020 Budget](#), the Chancellor confirmed that the Low Pay Commission (LPC) would be asked to make recommendations on the National Living Wage with a view to reaching a level of two-thirds of median earnings by 2024, provided economic conditions allow. The Government's [2020 remit to the LPC](#) has also been published today.

Responding to the Chancellor's announcement, Bryan Sanderson, Chair of the LPC, said:

We welcome the confirmation of our 2020 remit in today's Budget. The target for the National Living Wage to reach two-thirds of median earnings by 2024 is an ambitious one. We will need to listen closely to what employers and workers are telling us, and to very carefully assess the economic evidence in making our recommendations. The current concerns around the coronavirus only reinforce the importance of taking economic conditions into account.

We will be launching our written consultation in the coming days, to start the process of making recommendations on the 2021 minimum wage rates.

[Tax helpline to support businesses affected by coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)



HMRC has set up a phone helpline to support businesses and self-employed

people concerned about not being able to pay their tax due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

The [helpline](#) allows any business or self-employed individual who is concerned about paying their tax due to coronavirus to get practical help and advice. Up to 2,000 experienced call handlers are available to support businesses and individuals when needed.

If you run a business or are self-employed and are concerned about paying your tax due to coronavirus, you can call HMRC's helpline for help and advice: 0800 024 1222.

For those who are unable to pay due to coronavirus, HMRC will discuss your specific circumstances to explore:

- agreeing an [instalment arrangement](#)
- suspending debt collection proceedings
- cancelling penalties and interest where you have administrative difficulties contacting or paying HMRC immediately

The helpline number is 0800 024 1222 – and is an addition to other HMRC phone contact numbers.

Opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm. The helpline will not be available on Bank Holidays.

Published 11 March 2020

Last updated 26 March 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 26 March 2020

The telephone number has been changed for the coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline.

2. 11 March 2020

First published.

[Monetary policy remit: Budget 2020](#)

This is the remit for the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which the Chancellor sets out in a letter to the Governor of the Bank of England.

The Bank of England Act 1998 requires the Treasury to specify at least once every 12 months how price stability will be defined and the government's economic policy objectives. The remit for the Monetary Policy Committee will

continue to be issued alongside future Budgets.

[ESFA Update: 11 March 2020](#)

[unable to retrieve full-text content] Latest information and actions from the Education and Skills Funding Agency for academies, schools, colleges, local authorities and further education providers

[British High Commissioner celebrates Pakistan's Women Parliamentarians](#)

The British High Commission arranged a forum bringing together eight women parliamentarians – from a range of parties and regions – to discuss and share their stories as political leaders.

The discussion focused around three thematic areas: Gender Inclusivity, Women Leadership and Enabling Environment; and was attended by Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq, Senator Sitara Ayaz, MNA Mehnaz Aziz, MNA Andleeb Abbas, MNA Maleeka Bokhari, MNA Shunila Ruth, MNA Nafisa Shah and MNA Naz Baloch.

The British High Commissioner, Dr Christian Turner, CMG, said:

There is no prosperous future in Pakistan without giving women a voice and choice. I have met many brilliant Pakistani women and I'm impressed by their stories of resilience, hard work and creativity. As the British High Commissioner, I plan to use my time here to promote the UK's commitment to advance gender equality.

I will work to ensure that more women in Pakistan are heard and have voice in decision-making; I will work to get more girls into schools – and support financial inclusion of women, because an equal world is an enabled world.

Note to editors:

The British High Commissioner issued a [video message](#) on International Women's Day which included a pledge to not participate on an all-male panels.

For more information

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