

# Ellisons

## SOLICITORS

### Hot Topic – Employment Law

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#### Minimum wage increase

With effect from October 2009 workers aged 22 and over will benefit from an increase in the current minimum wage of £5.73 per hour to £5.80 per hour.

For workers aged between the years of 18 and 21, there is an increase to £4.83 per hour from the current £4.77 per hour.

Those aged 16 to 17 will benefit from a minimum wage of £3.57 per hour - an increase from the current £3.53 per hour.

Employers already hard pressed in the current economic climate had pushed via various lobbying groups for the minimum wage to remain static this year and may be disappointed at the increases, albeit modest.

Business Secretary, Lord Mandelson, was quoted as saying 'The National Minimum Wage has been in place for 10 years and remains one of the most important rights for workers introduced in that time. I am very proud of the difference it has made to the lives of the UK's lowest paid workers. It protects them from exploitation and also creates a level playing field for business, making a huge contribution to the UK's economic success.'

In addition to the increases effective from October 2009 the government has agreed that the adult rate of the minimum wage can be extended to 21 year olds with effect from October 2010.

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