

Press Release:

Minimum Wage Rates Increase

East Midlands businesses urged to understand what it means for them

As the Department for Business and Regulatory Reform announces the new National Minimum Wage Rates for 2008, East Midlands companies are being urged to take time to consider what it means for them.

From 1 October 2008, the rates will rise from £5.52 to £5.73 per hour for workers aged 22 and over, from £4.60 to £4.77 for those aged 18 to 21, and for those aged 16 to 17, rates will rise from £3.40 to £3.53.

It is expected that some 900,000 workers will benefit from the increase, which is said to be in line with the current rate of inflation.

Marion Vesey, Partner at Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire law firm Shacklocks said:

“On the surface, the minimum wage rules seem very simple, but if you have workers who work to complete a particular task with no set hours, or you employ pieceworkers, or if you pay your staff on a commission basis, then working out whether you are paying them at least the minimum wage might be quite complex.”

Marion believes that many local businesses operating varied work patterns may be unaware of the full implications of the minimum wage legislation and the way it impacts on their business.

She said:

“The new minimum wage is just one of many other changes over the last couple of years, such as the introduction of age discrimination legislation, and the rise in employees’ minimum holiday entitlement.”

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She advises companies to take time to check their employment policies and to seek advice if unsure how current legislation applies to them.

Marion continued:

“Now might be the perfect time to give your company an ‘employment law health-check’. Your employment contracts and policies are important tools of your business, and it will pay you to sharpen them up.”

To chat to one of Shacklocks employment specialists please call 01623 423073 or email marionv@shacklocks.co.uk

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Notes for Editors:

Shacklocks is a business committed to valuing lifetime relationships with clients. The firm provides legal, financial and investment advice to businesses and private clients and was established over 150 years ago.

Shacklocks holds the prestigious Lexcel accreditation, awarded by the Law Society only to firms demonstrating high levels of quality, client care and management. It currently has a staff of 70 people, including nine partners. Shacklocks has been featured in the legal 500 annual survey of the top UK law firms for the last five years and has seven offices throughout the East Midlands.

The firm’s Managing Partner is Martin Fallows who can be contacted at martinf@shacklocks.co.uk or on 07872 339718

If you would like an image to accompany this story or an interview with a lawyer experienced in business legal issues please contact Kim Peatfield. We are also happy to discuss feature ideas on other law related issues and provide specialists, comments, statistics and advice on forthcoming legislation.

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