

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LG/0263/18

Mike Hedges AM
Chair of Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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15 May 2018

Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter of 30 April regarding the Agricultural Wages (Wales) Order 2018.

You have requested clarification of the amount employers are to deduct from the wages of agricultural workers for accommodation under Articles 15(1) and (2) of the Order. I note you have seen the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee recent report, which raised similar issues and the Government's response to the points raised.

There is a weekly deduction of £1.50 where a house is provided and a daily deduction of £4.82 where other accommodation is provided, subject to the number of hours worked. I appreciate employers and employees alike need to be clear on what is required and I will ensure that any guidance issued on the Order includes this provision.

The question you raised about the coming into force date being close to the date the Order was laid was also addressed in the Government's response to the Committee. In late November the announcement of there being higher than expected National Minimum Wage rates for 2018/19, resulted in a need to re-consider and re-submit the draft to Welsh Government for consideration. I am satisfied that everything was done to meet the coming into force date of April 1 requested by the industry, to facilitate business planning and to co-ordinate with other relevant minimum wage rates.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I understand the Agricultural Advisory Panel is currently considering the structure of agricultural wages and the accommodation allowance is to be included as part of that.

Thank you for informing me you intend to conduct a short review in this area next year.

Regards
Lesley

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