

**PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FAO: LOCAL REPORTERS**

THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

**LOCAL MSP CALLS ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TO ADOPT £8.45 “REAL” LIVING WAGE**



David Torrance MSP has welcomed the new Scottish Living Wage rate of £8.45 an hour, and encouraged more employers in the Kirkcaldy Constituency to sign up as Accredited Living Wage Employers.

The Scottish Living Wage, calculated to meet the cost of living, is reviewed every year based on living standards.

The rise of 20 pence per hour will benefit thousands of workers at Living Wage-accredited organisations across Scotland, including many in Fife.

David Torrance MSP is an accredited Living Wage employer, and works with the Scottish Living Wage Accreditation Initiative to promote the Living Wage in the Kirkcaldy Constituency.

Commenting, David Torrance MSP said: “The new Living Wage of £8.45 will be a welcome pay rise for thousands of workers across Scotland and in my constituency, ensuring that people’s basic wage continues to meet the real costs of living.

“I would encourage all businesses in the Kirkcaldy Constituency to consider becoming Scottish Living Wage employers. For business, paying the Living Wage makes sense - it’s an investment in people and all the evidence shows it leads to increased productivity and reduced staff absence and turnover, while sending a strong signal to customers about fairness.

“With millions of workers worse off as a result of the UK Government’s welfare cuts, and low pay one of the main drivers of in-work poverty, employers can make a real difference by choosing to pay the real Living Wage.

“I encourage all businesses in my constituency to recognise the benefits of paying the real Living Wage.”

**ENDS**

**NOTES TO EDITOR:**

The new £8.45 Living Wage was announced by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October, who urged more Scottish organisations to sign up as Accredited Living Wage Employers.

The “real” Living Wage is reviewed every year using the best evidence about living standards in the UK, and is intended to meet the real costs of living. The new rise of 20 pence will benefit thousands of employees at Living Wage-accredited organisations in Scotland.

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