

## **Kerry human resources expert appointed by the Minister on state board**

The Minister for Business and Employment, Ged Nash TD, has appointed Caroline McEnery, MD of the HR suite to be a member of the Low Pay Commission. This new body will advise the Government annually, on what is the appropriate rate for the National Minimum Wage.

Caroline McEnery said "a core concern and focus will be to balance a basic statutory minimum pay rate that is fair, with one that is sustainable and which allows employers to continue to create quality sustainable jobs"

Minister Nash is also appointing eight other members to serve on the Commission. They are: Dr de Buitléir, Director of Publicpolicy.ie. who will be the chair of the board, Vincent Jennings Chief Executive Officer - Convenience Stores and Newsagents Association, Patricia King Vice President - SIPTU, incoming General Secretary of ICTU, Gerry Light Assistant General Secretary- Mandate Trade Union, Edel McGinley Director- Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, Mary Mosse Lecturer in Economics, Programme Director for Postgraduate Research -WIT Business School, Tom Noonan Chief Executive - The Maxol Group, President of IBEC (2008–2010), Prof Donal O'Neill Dept. of Economics- NUI, Maynooth.

Minister Nash said, the board "will now carry out the important task of examining data and consulting directly with workers and employers in order to advise the Government on what the appropriate rate should be."

"This commitment forms part of the Statement of Priorities agreed by the Taoiseach and Tanáiste last July and I am determined that the Commission will get to work immediately and report back to me during the summer."

"Work should always pay but I don't underestimate the difficult task that they will have"

The new Low Pay Commission will meet for the first time within the next two weeks to begin its work taking an evidence based approach to setting the minimum wage.

Caroline McEnery said the commission will examine a range of issues, including:

- The changes in earnings since the minimum wage was last increased in 2011
- The unemployment and employment rates generally
- The expected impact of a change to the minimum wage on employment, the cost of living and national competitiveness
- Changes in income distribution and
- Currency exchange rates

Caroline has stated that "It will be an exciting and very impactful role and I'm pleased that I have been chosen to be involved"

Caroline McEnery, Managing Director of the HR Suite has wide experience in the Human Resources field, having set up The HR Suite a HR consultancy which supports employers nationwide to manage their HR function. In the past Caroline held the position of Operations and HR Director with the Garvey Group as well as having worked with Kerry Group. She is involved in mentoring and supporting new start-up companies in conjunction with Kerry, Limerick and Dun Laoghaire Enterprise Boards.

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