



**An Bille um Pá Íosta Náisiúnta (Pá Comhionann do
Phrintísigh agus d'Oibrithe Óga), 2026**
**National Minimum Wage (Equal Pay for Apprentices
and Young Workers) Bill 2026**

Meabhrán Míniúcháin
Explanatory Memorandum



**AN BILLE UM PÁ ÍOSTA NÁISIÚNTA (PÁ COMHIONANN DO
PHRINTÍSIGH AGUS D'OIBRITHE ÓGA), 2026
NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE (EQUAL PAY FOR
APPRENTICES AND YOUNG WORKERS) BILL 2026**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Purpose of the Bill

The purpose of this bill is to ensure equal rights for apprentices and young workers, ending discrimination against them and giving all workers the right to be paid 100% of the national minimum wage, regardless of their age or apprentice status.

Provisions of the Bill

Section 1 defines the Principal Act referred to in this Bill as the National Minimum Wage Act 2000.

Section 2 deletes section 5(b) of the National Minimum Wage Act 2000, which exempts apprentices from the operation of the Act.

Section 3 amends section 14 of the National Minimum Wage Act to remove the reference to this section being subject to sections 15, as this Bill deletes these sections from the National Minimum Wage Act 2000.

Section 4 deletes section 15 of the National Minimum Wage Act as it outlines the percentage of the minimum wage that can be earned by those under 20 years of age.

Section 5 is the standard 'short title and citation' section required in every bill. It also outlines that the National Minimum Wage Acts 2000 and 2015 and this bill (when enacted) shall be construed together as one Act.

*Paul Murphy, TD, Ruth Coppinger, TD, Richard Boyd Barrett, TD,
Bealtaine, 2026.*