

Hearts Become Living Wage Employer

Having announced their intention to do so in October, Hearts today become the first football club in Scotland to become an officially accredited Living Wage employer.

This means that all staff employed at the Gorgie club will be paid no less than the Living Wage. The Living Wage was updated to £7.85 per hour in November, £1.35 per hour more than the National Minimum Wage which is a statutory requirement.

In Scotland, there are approximately 414,000 people currently paid below the Living Wage. The Scottish Living Wage Accreditation Initiative has been operating in Scotland since April 2014 and provides support and advice to organisations that wish to pay the living wage. More than 70 employers in Scotland are now accredited as paying the living wage.

Peter Kelly, Director of the Poverty Alliance who deliver the Accreditation Initiative, said today: "Congratulations to Heart of Midlothian on becoming Scotland's first Living Wage accredited football club.

"We are delighted that they will pay all staff who work at the club the Living Wage, and that they have opted to have their commitment to the Living Wage recognised through the accreditation mark. This is an important step forward for the campaign to end poverty pay in Scotland.

A Hearts spokesperson said: "Heart of Midlothian Football Club is delighted to be given accreditation to become a Living Wage Employer. The club feels that implementing the Living Wage is entirely in keeping with the values that we hold dear as Edinburgh's oldest football club. Since revealing our intention to implement the Living Wage the club has received widespread backing from both our supporters and sponsors."

Source: www.heartsfc.co.uk