

# Standard Life to start paying the new Living Wage this month

✖ Standard Life, one of the biggest employers in Edinburgh has been a Living Wage Employer for a couple of years now, and at the end of Living Wage Week they have confirmed that they will pay the new rates ahead of the deadline of 1 May 2017.

The company has announced that they will pay the new rates of £8.45 from 16 November 2016.

Sandy Begbie, Chief People Officer, Standard Life said: “We’ve been a fully accredited Living Wage Employer since 2014 and were the first private sector company to become a Living Wage Friendly Funder in 2015. We know that paying the real Living Wage has a positive impact on the lives of individuals and brings benefits to our business and our wider community. Knowing that we are doing the right thing is something our people can take pride in too. This is both Living Wage Week and Good Money Week here in the UK and our organisation is proud to be supporting both of these important initiatives and the values they underpin.”

John Cowan (19) an intern with Standard Life adds: “My income went up when I started my internship with Standard Life as I’m earning the voluntary Living Wage. I have my car and phone bill to pay for, as well as my clothes – my parents don’t expect to pay for that any more – and having more money is giving me more of my independence. My car insurance isn’t a tight squeeze at the end of the month and I can I can do the small things, like put more petrol in the car. It means I have more opportunity to plan and start to think about the future more too, which is amazing.”

Katherine Chapman, Director of the Living Wage Foundation said: "Business by business and organisation by organisation our employers are voluntarily choosing to close the pay gap in the UK between what people need to live on and the government minimum that every employer has to pay. The increase in the real Living Wage will mean thousands of employees around the country will get a much needed increase to their pay packet to help them meet the cost of living. That's the difference paying the real Living Wage makes. During Living Wage Week we celebrate the leadership of those great Living Wage employers who make this possible."