

MSP encourages local businesses to pay the Scottish Living Wage

SNP MSP Ben Macpherson has urged businesses in Edinburgh Northern and Leith to sign up to the Scottish Living Wage, as part of Living Wage Week which runs until 10 November.

The Scottish Living Wage is independently calculated, based on the cost of living – with the real Living Wage rising by 25p this year to £9, higher than the minimum wage of £7.83 for workers over the age of 25.

At the moment there are 275 accredited Living Wage employers in Edinburgh, and 78 of those have a place of business in Edinburgh Northern and Leith.



Ben Macpherson – SNP –
Edinburgh Northern and
Leith Photo Andrew
Cowan/Scottish Parliament

Ben Macpherson has written to employers in Edinburgh Northern and Leith, encouraging them to explore the benefits of accreditation. Research shows that paying the real Living Wage improves staff morale and retention, as well as productivity and company reputation in the community.

He said: “The real Living Wage can make a huge difference to both workers and employers, supporting strong economic growth and vibrant communities.

“For business, paying the Living Wage makes sense – it’s an investment in people, and all the evidence shows that it leads to increased productivity and better staff retention.

“It is very disappointing that the UK Government did not use last week’s Budget to raise the National Living Wage, extend it to all workers and end discrimination against young people. With low pay one of the main drivers of in-work poverty, it is vital that employers who can pay the real Living Wage, do so.

“I appreciate that there are multiple challenges and various costs to running a successful business. However, I would

strongly encourage employers in Edinburgh Northern and Leith to to look into the benefits of becoming an accredited Living Wage employer, as we continue to strengthen inclusive, sustainable economic growth in Scotland.”