



THE LIVING WAGE

I want to



What is it?

The living wage is an **informal benchmark** intended to let workers lead a decent life, not a legally enforceable minimum level of pay, like the national minimum wage which is a reserved power of Westminster.

Why is it controversial?

The living wage is set at £7.85 an hour in Scotland. By comparison, the national minimum wage is significantly lower. Since October 2014, the national minimum wage has been £6.50 an hour for adults aged 21 and over, and £5.13 for those aged 18 to 20. As **the minimum wage is not devolved**, the Scottish Government cannot raise the minimum wage.

What is the SNP's position?

Gaining the ability to alter the minimum wage would allow it to increase the £6.50 per hour rate in line with inflation in the short-term. The SNP's goal is to raise the minimum wage to the level of the "living wage", which stands at £7.85.