

2024.10.22

3.9 Deputy M.B. Andrews of the Minister for Social Security regarding the views of businesses on the Draft Employment (Minimum Wage and Benefits in Kind) (Jersey) Amendment Law 202- (OQ.200/2024):

Further to the adoption of the draft Employment, Minimum Wage and Benefits in Kind (Jersey) Amendment Law, will the Minister explain how the views of businesses will be sought in relation to the raising of the minimum wage once the amendment law is in force?

Deputy L.V. Feltham of St. Helier Central (The Minister for Social Security):

We have already, at a Ministerial level, met with several key stakeholder groups, including business representatives, representatives of employees and representatives of charitable organisations. That, alongside the analysis undertaken by the chief economist and further discussions that I have had with the Minister for Sustainable Economic Development, has informed the approach that I will be taking and have taken to setting the minimum wage.

3.9.1 Deputy M.B. Andrews:

Members will obviously be aware that the Jersey Employment Forum have been removed from the process that was within the law due to the States Assembly approving a proposition earlier this year. I want to know what impact that potentially has on certain businesses who might not be included in the consultation that is currently in place at the moment with the Minister and the Council of Ministers.

[11:15]

Deputy L.V. Feltham:

Of course any business or any individual can always exercise their democratic right to contact their elected representatives and have their voice. I made it very clear when I brought the changes to the legislation that this is very much a political decision. It is something that many of us in this Assembly stood and told our electorate that we wanted to do. So I have taken the steps to enable us to stop going around in circles and to take the necessary action to moving towards a living wage.