



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release
Youth Work Ireland
19 July, 2021

“Young People Working in Hospitality Will Be Paid Less Than Minimum Wage on Re-opening of Indoor Dining” says Leading Youth Organisation

Youth Work Ireland has today highlighted that a large number of the young people working in indoor hospitality will be paid less than their co-workers doing precisely the same job due to the law on “sub-minimum” wages. The organisation believes this is symbolic of the low priority given to young people in the pandemic and in recovery. These are the same young people who missed out on swathes of education, are last to get the vaccination and now have to work in a risky environment while receiving less pay than their colleagues. Young people in contact with the organisation have even been offered supervisory roles at the same “sub-minimum” wage where they would manage staff earning more than them. The organisation has called on the Government to have the issue examined by the Low Pay Commission as a critical aspect of reopening.

“Young people will be at the forefront of the reopening of hospitality and the debate about this issue has been ongoing, there has been very little concern about the young people who will be staffing the various hospitality outlets. Only the vaccination status of young people has featured briefly. However huge numbers of young people will be working to facilitate this reopening but getting paid significantly less than people working alongside them as the law provides for automatic discrimination against young people when it comes to the minimum wage. An eighteen-year-old adult will receive 80% of a 21 year old co-worker under our current system or indeed anyone carrying out the same work. There is no “equal pay for equal work” when it comes to young people who will be critical to this reopening” said Michael Mc Loughlin of Youth Work Ireland

“It is wholly unacceptable that young people are paid less for precisely the same work as older people who they could even be working alongside in the same workplace. This discrimination is based on outmoded and outdated Victorian ideas. It is predicated on the notion that young people have less responsibilities than others and this is far from clear. Such an assumption intrudes into young people’s personal lives and is not acceptable in the tax or welfare code for other people. We do not, for example, vary the minimum wage for people with more children or those who may care for older people or people with disabilities. In the end of the day pay systems do not get into our personal circumstances to any great degree. The only area where this is provided for is in relation to the minimum wage and young people” Mc Loughlin added

Contact: Michael Mc Loughlin 087 6677499

Youth Spokespersons may be available.