

## CLAS CIRCULAR 2023/08 (18 April 2023)

### Disclaimer

**CLAS is not qualified to advise on the legal and technical problems of members and does not undertake to do so. Though we take every care to provide a service of high quality, neither CLAS, the Secretary nor the Governors undertakes any liability for any error or omission in the information supplied.**

It would be very helpful if members could let us know of anything that appears to indicate developments of policy or practice on the part of Government or other matters of general concern that should be pursued.

<b>EMPLOYMENT &amp; VOLUNTEERING .....</b>	<b>2</b>
National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage increases come into force .....	2
Update to immigration rules for charity workers.....	2
<b>ODDS &amp; ENDS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Elections and non-party campaigning .....	3
<b>PROPERTY &amp; PLANNING .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Consultation on the introduction of a use class for short-term lets .....	4
Support for non-domestic organisations not on the gas grid .....	4
Government announces proposed UNESCO world heritage site list .....	5
<b>SCOTLAND.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Possible Council Tax changes for second and empty homes?.....	6

## EMPLOYMENT & VOLUNTEERING

### National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage increases come into force

For information

The [NLW and NMW rises](#) came into effect on 1 April. The rate rises include a 9.7% increase in the NLW, the lowest wage for those older than 22, from £9.50 per hour to £10.42. This is the equivalent of more than £1,600 extra per year before tax for someone working full time. The full increases from 1 April 2023 are:

- The National Living Wage (23+) has increased 9.7%, from £9.50 to £10.42.
- The National Minimum wage (21-22) has increased 10.9%, from £9.18 to £10.18.
- The National Minimum Wage (18-20) has increased 9.7%, from £6.83 to £7.49.
- The National Minimum Wage (under-18) has increased 9.7%, from £4.81 to £5.28.
- The Apprentice Rate has increased 9.7% from £4.81 to £5.28.

[Source: Dept for International Trade, 1 April]

### Update to immigration rules for charity workers

For information

The Government has updated the Immigration Rules for charity workers coming to live and volunteer in the UK for up to 12 months, as follows:

- CW 4.5. The decision maker must not have reasonable grounds to believe the job the applicant is being sponsored to do does not comply with the National Minimum Wage Regulations or the Working Time Regulations.
- CW 8.3(c) voluntary work with another organisation is permitted, providing it is in the same role as the one listed on the Certificate of Sponsorship.
- CW 12.2 The applicant must show that the relationship meets the relationship requirements as specified in Appendix Relationship with Partner. [Source: Home Office, 13 April]

[Source: Department for Business & Trade, 27 March]

## ODDS & ENDS

### Elections and non-party campaigning

**For information**

We understand that the Electoral Commission has produced the final draft of its new Code of Practice for non-party campaigners during UK Parliament and Northern Ireland Assembly elections, and that it will be published externally during the week of 10 April. The draft Code will then be laid before Parliament.

The Code is subject to the negative statutory instrument procedure: it will come into force at 40 days after it has been laid unless either House resolves not to approve the draft. It will only apply to a General Election held after November 2023. [See [ss 110A and 100B Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000](#), inserted by the [Elections Act 2022](#).]

[Source: CLAS, 11 April]

## PROPERTY & PLANNING

### Consultation on the introduction of a use class for short-term lets

For information

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is seeking views on the design of a registration scheme for short-term let properties in England, including on its scope and how it would operate.

This consultation follows a commitment by the Government to introduce a short-term lets registration scheme through an amendment to the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill. The intention of the proposed scheme is intended to ensure that guest accommodation should be safe and of high-quality while providing data that will help local authorities to identify where premises are being let out in their areas, to enforce health and safety regulations and to manage the impact on the housing market of high numbers of short-term lets.

[Source: DCMS, 12 April]

### Support for non-domestic organisations not on the gas grid

For information **and possibly for action**

DESNEZ (aka the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero) is reminding consumers of the scheme for supporting commercial businesses, charities and public sector organisations that use over 10,000 litres of kerosene heating oil per year. **The scheme, which provides payments starting at £750, closes for new applications on 28 April 2023, so this is the last call.**

Applications can be made using this link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-energy-bill-support-for-non-domestic-properties>. Alternatively, search for “energy bill support for non-domestic properties” in Gov.uk or search engines.

[Source: DESNEZ, 28 March]

**Government announces proposed UNESCO world heritage site list**

**For information**

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has published the list of places for which it is seeking UNESCO World Heritage Status. The list includes York city centre, which includes a wide variety of historic secular and religious buildings and Gracehill Moravian Church centre in Ballymena, founded as a Moravian church settlement in 1746.

[Source : DCMS, 10 April]

## SCOTLAND

### Possible Council Tax changes for second and empty homes?

**For information**

The Scottish Government proposes to consult, in conjunction with COSLA, on a proposal to empower councils to raise the amount of council tax paid on empty and second homes. The changes could give councils powers to charge up to double the full rate of council tax on second homes from April 2024. The proposed change would bring second homes into line with long-term empty homes from next 2024. The joint consultation with COSLA will also seek views on further powers to charge more than double rate on both empty and second homes in future years.

While the proposal will not affect lettings of church property, it may well have an impact on clergy and others in job-related accommodation who are buying a second home for their eventual retirement.

[Source: Scottish Government, 17 April]