

Lesley Griffiths MS
Minister for Rural Affairs
Welsh Government
5th Floor
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Thursday 6th July 2023

Dear Lesley Griffiths MS,

Re: The Real Living Wage for Agricultural Workers in Wales

We write to seek clarity regarding the Welsh Government's position on providing the Real Living Wage for agricultural workers in Wales.

We welcome the Welsh Government's commitment to the fair work agenda, including payment of the Real Living Wage and investing in people. As a result of the Supreme Court ruling in 2014, the Welsh Government sets the minimum wage for the agricultural sector, with advice from the Agricultural Advisory Panel.

The Covid-19 pandemic led to a broader understanding of whose labour is essential for the functioning of our society. Workers in the agricultural and food production sectors kept food on both our shop shelves, and on our tables. They kept the cogs of society turning, whilst everything around them ground to a halt.

Despite that, workers in the agricultural sector remain low-paid, as well as often being employed through insecure and seasonal contracts. It is our belief that keyworkers such as those in the agricultural sector deserve to be paid a Real Living Wage, so that they can afford to put food on their own tables, too.

Given that the power to set the minimum wage for agricultural workers rests with the Welsh Government, when is the minimum wage for agricultural workers going to be increased to the Real Living Wage, ensuring farming workers receive a liveable wage in return for the vital work which they carry out that benefits Wales and beyond?

Yours Sincerely,

Carolyn Thomas MS



Luke Fletcher MS

