

FINDING A BALANCE: APPRENTICESHIP DECENT WAGE



The minimum wage for apprenticeships has a significant impact on both individuals and society as a whole, and finding a balance between paying apprentices fairly and ensuring that the minimum wage does not limit participation in apprenticeships or increase reliance on government benefits is key to creating a sustainable and effective apprenticeship system.

Consider a 17 year old and starting their first year of an apprenticeship. They work 40 hours per week, earning £5.28 per hour. This means that they receive just over £211.20 per week before tax. If they live on their own or support a family, it may be difficult to pay for rent, food, and other bills on this income.

The current minimum wage for apprenticeships in the UK, which is set at £5.28 per hour for under 19s and those in their first year of an apprenticeship, may not be enough for some apprentices to cover costs. This can limit their ability to fully participate in their apprenticeship and gain valuable skills and experience. Additionally, if apprentices are not paid enough to make a living, it may increase their reliance on government benefits, such as working tax credit and child tax credit. This can be costly for the government and ultimately for taxpayers. For example, if an apprentice has to rely on government benefits, it may reduce the incentive to work and make it difficult to pay for their living expenses, which can negatively impact their personal and professional development.

Moreover, the minimum wage for apprenticeships can also affect the wider economy and society. Apprenticeships are a crucial way to develop the skills and talent of the future workforce, which can boost productivity and drive economic growth. If the minimum wage for apprenticeships is too low, it may discourage people from pursuing apprenticeships and limit the pool of talent available for employers to draw from. For example, if the minimum wage for apprenticeships is too low, it may discourage young people from pursuing apprenticeships and limit the talent pool for employers, which can negatively impact the economy in the long term.

In summary, while having a minimum wage for apprenticeships is important to ensure that apprentices are paid fairly, it is also crucial to consider the potential impact on individuals, the economy, and society as a whole. Finding a balance between paying apprentices fairly and ensuring that the minimum wage does not limit participation in apprenticeships or increase reliance on government benefits is key to creating a sustainable and effective apprenticeship system.

CONTACT US:

If you have any questions and would like to contact the Back the Future team, please get in touch.
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