

[Proposed amendment to Employment Regulation Order S.I. No. 297 of 2024 as formulated by the Early Years' Joint Labour Committee on the 20 June 2025]

PART I

Interpretation

In this Order: - "Act of 2000" means the National Minimum Wage Act 2000 (Number 5 of 2000).

"Establishment Order" means the S.I. No. 292/2021 – **Early Years' Service Joint Labour Committee** Establishment, Order 2021.

"Minister" means the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment.

A word or expression that is used in this Order, which is also used in the Establishment Order has, unless the contrary intention appears, the meaning in this Order that it has in the Establishment Order.

Workers to Whom this Order Applies

This Order applies to:

- (A) Lead Educators (Room Leaders) and School Age Childcare (SAC) Coordinators (Including graduate rate)
- (B) Deputy / Assistant Managers
- (C) Centre Manager (Including graduate rate)

PART II

STATUTORY MINIMUM REMUNERATION AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

All provisions of Employment Regulation Order S.I. No. 297/2024 - Employment Regulation (Amendment) Order (Early Years' Service Joint Labour Committee) Order No. 2 2024 will remain in force up to the date of signature of this Order, which will become effective from the date of signature by the Minister.

SECTION I – RATE OF REMUNERATION

- (1) Subject to section (2) of this part, a worker to whom this Order applies shall be remunerated by his or her employer at the following hourly rate in respect of all working hours to include contact and non-contact hours with effect from the date of this Order;

(A) Lead Educators (Room Leaders) and School Age Childcare (SAC) Coordinators

- (i) **Lead Educators (Room Leaders) and School Age Childcare (SAC) Coordinators - €16.00 per hour from the date of this Order.**

A Lead Educator (Room Leader) and School Age Childcare (SAC) Coordinator means a worker who is wholly or mainly in direct contact with children and who is involved in the education and/or care of children. In addition, an appointed Lead Educator (Room Leader) and School

Age Childcare (SAC) Coordinator will have responsibility for the education and care of a group of children, leading the practice with that group of children.

- (ii) **Graduate Lead Educators (Room Leaders) and School Age Childcare (SAC) Coordinators - €17.50 per hour from the date of this Order.**

A Graduate Lead Educator (Room Leader) and School Age Childcare (SAC) Coordinator means a worker set out in (A)(i) above who has attained a minimum QQI Level 7 qualification or equivalent which is approved by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

(B) Deputy / Assistant Manager

Deputy / Assistant Manager - €18.00 per hour from the date of this Order.

Deputy/Assistant Manager means a worker who is appointed by their employer to support the Manager. An appointed Deputy/Assistant Manager may also work directly with children in addition to their day-to-day managerial duties and responsibilities. They may deputise as the person in charge in the absence of the manager, and/or,

is wholly or mainly engaged in supporting the Manager with the day- to-day management duties and responsibilities of the Service. The Deputy/Assistant Manager may also work directly with children in addition to their day-to-day managerial duties and responsibilities. In the absence of the Manager, the Deputy/Assistant Manager may deputise as the person in charge of the service.

(C) Centre Manager

- (i) **Centre Manager - €19.00 per hour from the date of this Order.**

Centre Manager means a worker who is the primary designated person in charge of the service who carries out the day-to-day management duties and responsibilities for the service. The Manager may also work directly with children in addition to their day-to-day managerial duties and responsibilities.

- (ii) **Graduate Centre Manager - €20.25 per hour from the date of this Order.**

A Graduate Centre Manager means a worker set out in C (i) who has attained a minimum QQI level 7 qualification, or equivalent which is approved by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

SECTION 2

- (a) A worker who has not attained the age of 18 years shall be remunerated at an hourly rate of pay that is not less than 70 percent of the rate specified in section 1.
- (b) A worker who has attained the age of 18 years but has not attained the age of 19 years shall be remunerated at an hourly rate of pay that is not less than 80 percent of the rate specified in section 1.

- (c) A worker who has attained the age of 19 but has not attained the age of 20 years shall be remunerated at an hourly rate of pay that is not less than 90 percent of the rate specified in section 1.

PART III

Other Terms and Conditions of Employment

The following enactments set out the minimum statutory terms and conditions applicable.

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

The Terms of Employment (Information) Act, 1994.

The Organisation of Working Time Act, 1997.

The Maternity Protection Acts, 1994 and 2004.

The Protection of Workers (Fixed Term Work) Act, 2003.

The Payment of Wages Act, 1991.

The Protection of Employment Act 1977 (Notification of Proposed Collective Redundancies) Regulation 1977.

The Redundancy Payments Acts 1967 to 2014.

The Minimum Notice and Terms of Employment Acts 1973 to 2005.

Bullying / Harassment / Grievance / Disciplinary Procedures

In this regard, the following Codes of Practice are to be observed:

S.I. No. 17 of 2002 — Industrial Relations Act 1990 (Code of Practice Detailing Procedures for Addressing Bullying in the Workplace) (Declaration) Order 2002.

S.I. No. 146 of 2000 — Industrial Relations Act 1990 (Code of Practice on Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures) (Declaration) Order 2000.

S.I. No. 208 of 2012 — Employment Equality Act 1998 (Code of Practice) (Harassment) Order 2012.

S.I. No. 159/2021 - Workplace Relations Act 2015 (Workplace Relations Commission Code of Practice on the Right to Disconnect) Order 2021.

S.I. No. 169/1993 - Industrial Relations Act, 1990, Code of Practice on Employee Representatives (Declaration) Order, 1993.

S.I. No. 463/2015 - Industrial Relations Act 1990 (Code of Practice on Victimisation) (Declaration) Order 2015.

S.I. No. 674/2020 - Industrial Relations Act 1990 (Code of Practice for Employers and Employees on the Prevention and Resolution of Bullying at Work) Order 2020.

Existing Contracts and Agreements

Existing employment contracts remain valid except in circumstances where the remuneration or terms and conditions are below what is set out in this Employment Regulation Order. This ERO sets out the **minimum** remuneration and terms and conditions which are applicable to Early Years Educators and School Age Childcare Practitioners in the early years sector. It is at the discretion of employers and employees to negotiate and enter into contracts providing for Terms and Conditions which are higher than those set out in this ERO.

This ERO does not affect in any way already existing contracts and agreements (if equal or better) be they local, national, official, or in-company.

Sick Pay

Sick pay arrangements should be in line with statutory provisions.