

Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland

Chairperson

3rd March 2026

The Registrar
The Labour Court
Tom Johnson House
Haddington Road
Dublin 4

Re: Proposal for a Sectoral Employment Order in the Commercial Archaeology Sector

Dear Registrar,

I write in my capacity as Chairperson of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI) to express my strong personal support for the application by the Archaeology Branch of Unite the Union for a Sectoral Employment Order (SEO) in the commercial archaeology sector.

The IAI was established to promote and advance the profession of archaeology in Ireland, to uphold professional standards, and to advocate for the welfare of archaeologists working across all sectors. The IAI's membership encompasses archaeologists employed in commercial, academic, and public contexts, and I am acutely aware of the conditions facing those working in the commercial sector.

I believe that the proposed SEO would make a meaningful contribution to promoting good relations between workers and employers in the commercial archaeology sector and to reducing the risk of future industrial unrest. A clearly defined and enforceable minimum base rate of €22.50 per hour would provide a transparent and fair framework that both employers and employees could rely upon, thereby reducing the conditions that give rise to disputes and unrest.

We need a commercial archaeology sector in Ireland that is professionally robust, ethically grounded, and capable of attracting and retaining skilled practitioners. I believe that the proposed Sectoral Employment Order represents a proportionate and well-founded measure that would advance all these goals and respectfully urge the Labour Court to grant it.

Yours sincerely,

Ros Ó Maoldúin

Dr Ros Ó Maoldúin MIAI

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