

MEDIA RELEASE

11 February 2022



Minimum Wage increase a slap in the face to Canterbury business

Increasing the minimum wage by six percent with just seven weeks' notice is a slap in the face to Canterbury business.

“For the Government to immediately increase the cost of doing business at a time where businesses are already facing extreme pressure shows a worrying disconnect from the reality that businesses are operating in,” says Leeann Watson, Chief Executive of Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce.

“Businesses have only been given a mere seven weeks to prepare for the minimum wage changes, after it was repeatedly stated at the last election that any further changes would be signaled well in advance to provide sufficient notice for employers to prepare – it is disappointing that this appears to be a broken promise.

“Much of the pressures facing businesses have been induced by Government restrictions. The red light settings are a significant handbrake, the cost of doing business is through the roof and our labour market is severely strained.

“This decision will immediately increase the cost of doing business at a time where many businesses are scraping by.

“We are not opposed to an increase in the minimum wage but would have preferred to see a staged approach at a more appropriate time, not when restrictions are preventing many businesses from operating – and with far more notice, not seven weeks.”

- ENDS -

For more information, or to arrange an interview, please contact:

Leeann Watson, Chief Executive, 027 447 7775, leeannw@cecc.org.nz, www.thechamber.co.nz

The Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce (The Chamber) is a not-for-profit membership-based service organisation that has been the home and voice of business in the Canterbury region since 1859. Comprised of over 2,900 member organisations that represent over 70,000 employees, The Chamber's purpose is to empower people in business by providing advisory and consultancy support in employment relations, human resources, health and safety, international trade, manufacturing, migrant support, research and development grants, and training and development in many areas. www.thechamber.co.nz