

## **Press release: Low Pay Commission analysis of 1 April 2017 minimum wage rise**

[unable to retrieve full-text content]The 1 April 2017 minimum wage rise is set to benefit 2.3 million but create pressure for employers. Read the Low Pay Commission's analysis.

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## **News story: The Valuation Office Agency's online business rates service**

Service availability and alternative arrangements for making 2010 business rates appeals.

The Valuation Office Agency's online service will be unavailable after midday on Thursday 30 March 2017. This is so we can make improvements ahead of publishing the 2017 rateable values on 1 April, as well as preparing for the 2017 business rates appeals systems in England and Wales. The online service will resume on 1 April.

If you would like to propose a change, or appeal your 2010 rateable value, you can download the [appeals to the 2010 Rating List business rates PDF form](#) and email it to us by 23:59 on 31 March 2017. More details on how to use this form, and how to submit it, accompany the form.

Agents can continue to submit appeals online using the Agents service.

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## **WATCH: May – “This is a historic moment, from which there can be no turning back”**

Published: March 29, 2017

3 comments for: WATCH: May – “This is a historic moment, from which there can be no turning back”

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## [There seems to have been a revolving door between CH2M and HS2 which must be investigated – Andy McDonald](#)

**Andy**

**McDonald, Labour’s Shadow Transport Secretary**, commenting on reports that engineering firm CH2M has pulled out of a deal to provide rail lines for phase 2b of HS2, said:

“It’s remarkable the Department of Transport failed to do proper due diligence on this multi-million pound bid.

“How could ministers not realise giving CH2M a £170m contract when HS2’S new chief executive and his predecessor both worked for the firm was a massive conflict of interest?

“There seems to have been a revolving door between CH2M and HS2 which must be investigated. This is just as big a mess as the Department of Transport’s mishandling of the West Coast franchise bid.

“Chris Grayling must come to the House of Commons at the earliest opportunity to explain how this bidding process was allowed to derail. They chose to bury the bad news on Article 50 day. There must now be an inquiry into the serious errors surrounding this bid and the Government must get the construction of HS2, which Labour supports, back on track.”

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# Gorton by-election is a chance for Manchester to say no to a hard Brexit

As the Prime Minister triggered Article 50, the Liberal Democrats have emphasised that it is still possible for people to stop a Hard Brexit and that the by-election in Manchester Gorton will be a chance to force Labour and the Government to “change course.”