

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**24 OCTOBER 2023**

## **New real Living Wage rates for 2023/24 are welcomed by Greater Manchester Poverty Action**

**Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA) has welcomed the Living Wage Foundation's announcement that the real UK Living Wage will rise to £12 per hour for 2023/24.**

This will mean a pay rise for the 430,000 workers employed at over 13,000 Living Wage accredited employers across the country, including at least 145,000 workers in Greater Manchester.

Unlike the Government's statutory minimum National Living Wage for over 23-year-olds, the real Living Wage is the only rate of pay independently calculated on the actual cost-of-living, and it also applies to workers over the age of 18. It also has a London weighting, with the real London Living Wage rising to £13.15.

Full time workers on the real Living Wage rates will earn a further £3,081 a year across the UK and £5,323.50 a year in London than the government's current National Living Wage.

In response to the new rate, Graham Whitham, CEO at GMPA said: "The prevalence of low-paying work in the UK means that many working people lack the money they require to meet their basic needs and to participate fully in society. This is one of the reasons why in-work poverty is so high in this country.

"Therefore, as living costs continue to soar, we welcome today's announcement that the real Living Wage will rise to £12 an hour. Paying people a decent wage is more important than ever, and the new real Living Wage rate will provide thousands of workers and their families in Greater Manchester with a much-needed income boost."

GMPA runs the Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign, advocating for widespread adoption of the real Living Wage by employers across the city-region. There were just 26 accredited Living Wage employers in Greater Manchester when the campaign started in 2013 – now, there are 726.

To learn more about the real Living Wage, visit: <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/>

To learn more about the GMLWC, visit: <https://www.gmpovertyaction.org/gmlivingwage/>

**Ends**

**Notes to editor:**

**Media contact**

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Interviews available with Graham Whitham.

**Who are Greater Manchester Poverty Action?**

Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA) is a recognised leader on poverty in the UK and exists to end poverty in Greater Manchester and beyond.

We deliver independent, evidence-based activities to address socio-economic disadvantage. These focus on maximising the financial resources available to households, amplifying the voices of people with lived experience, and working with our network to achieve meaningful change.

We won't stop until our city-region is free from poverty.

**Work includes:**

- [Local anti-poverty strategies: good practice and effective approaches](#)
- [Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign](#)
- [Money Advice Referral Tools](#), supporting people to access advice and maximise their income
- [Money Matters programme](#), providing debt and benefit advice in schools
- [Fortnightly newsletters](#)

Further information can be found by visiting <https://www.gmpovertyaction.org/>.