

## Plumbing and Heating Federation Welcomes Measured Approach to Wage Increases to Safeguard Youth Employment

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Following reports that the government is considering slowing increases to the National Minimum Wage, Stephanie Lowe, Deputy Chief Executive of [SNIPEF](#), has shared her comments.

She said: “Any decision that allows time to reflect on the impact of wage policy on youth employment and apprenticeships is welcome. Youth unemployment is rising and in professions such as plumbing and heating, where apprenticeships are essential to future skills, access to opportunity must remain a priority.

“SNIPEF has been in dialogue with the Low Pay Commission about the projected rises to the National Minimum Wage, and we are glad that through these constructive conversations that our concerns have been heard.

“SNIPEF is clear this is not an argument against fair pay. Apprentices should be properly rewarded for their contribution and progression. However, apprenticeships differ from standard employment. They involve long term training, time in college and significant cost for the micro businesses that deliver most apprenticeship places.

“If wage increases move faster than training economics can sustain, the unintended consequence may be fewer apprenticeship opportunities and reduced entry routes for young people, ultimately weakening the future skilled workforce.”