



PRESS RELEASE

VASLan – South Lanarkshire’s Third Sector Interface – has become accredited as a Living Wage employer

VASLan has today been accredited as a Living Wage employer. The Living Wage commitment re-affirms that everyone working at VASLan will continue to receive a minimum hourly wage of £10.90 per hour. This Living Wage rate was announced on Thursday, 22nd September 2022. This rate is significantly higher than the government minimum for over 23s, which currently stands at £9.50 per hour (from 1 April 2022).

In Scotland, more than 14% of all jobs pay less than the real Living Wage - around 330,000 jobs. Despite this, VASLan is committed to paying the real Living Wage and delivering a fair day’s pay for a hard day’s work.

The real Living Wage is the only UK wage rate calculated according to the costs of living. Employers choose to pay the real Living Wage on a voluntary basis, recognising the value of their workers and ensuring that a hard day’s work receives a fair day’s pay.

Since 2011 the Living Wage movement has delivered a pay rise to over 52,000 people in Scotland and put over £310 million extra into the pockets of low-paid Scottish workers.

Steven Sweeney, Chief Executive Officer of VASLan said: “We are delighted to announce that we have finally become a Living Wage accredited employer. Fair work practices and valuing our VASLan teammates are part of our culture, which we plan to continue to build upon. We also want to use this as a platform to better support South Lanarkshire’s third sector, with some members reporting challenges when trying to pay the Living Wage.”

“According to the Living Wage Foundation, 12.5% of voluntary organisations pay below the Living Wage. We welcome the Scottish Government’s real Living Wage requirement from July 2023 for businesses, enterprise agencies and public bodies.”

“For this to be fully realised for South Lanarkshire’s third sector, for Fair Work First criteria to be implemented, long-standing items like a lack of core investment, the absence of annual uplifts, short-term funding arrangements and delays in decision making need to be rectified.”

Peter Kelly, Director of The Poverty Alliance said: “We all need an income that is enough to cover our needs and protect us from poverty, and it’s only right that employers pay a wage that reflects the cost of living. Too many workers in Scotland are paid less than the real Living Wage and, at a time of rising costs, are struggling to stay afloat. The real Living Wage can offer protection from those rising costs.”

“Congratulations to VASLan on their Living Wage commitment, and I hope more organisations follow their lead by becoming Living Wage accredited.”

Gail Irvine, Living Wage Scotland Manager said: “We’re delighted that VASLan has become an accredited Living Wage employer. They join a growing movement of over 2500 employers in Scotland who together want to ensure workers have what they need to thrive.”

“Our Living Wage employer network includes lots of smaller employers as well as larger and iconic brands like SSE, abrdn, Barrs, Mackie’s of Scotland, & D.C. Thomson. We hope to see many more employers following their example.”