

NTF WEEKLY UPDATE – 28th March 2023

– Issue No. 1336

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EMPLOYMENT

Recruiting from abroad

Around 25 NTF members joined the seminar on employing migrant workers presented by Migrate-UK last week which covered key topics including the job categories covered and the minimum pay required to meet the qualifying criteria. Jonathan Beech MD of Migrate also explained that there are routes other than Home Office sponsorship under which a worker may qualify to work in the UK and the importance of ongoing compliance once a trainer has a Home Office sponsors licence.

Separately Paul and Dawn met with Jonathan Beech and Ian Squires from Migrate to discuss a platform Migrate is developing whereby potential workers from abroad are pre-qualified to ensure they have the necessary formalities in place to work in the UK and can then be put in touch with trainers registered to the platform who are looking to employ racing staff. More details of this will be shared with NTF members over coming weeks.

Wages

National Minimum Wage Rates from 1st April 2023

Please be aware that the National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates increase on 1st April. As a result, there are some changes to the racing minimum rates as detailed in the link below. The government increases in the National Minimum rates were higher than anticipated and we appreciate that this may cause some issues for trainers where it results in

some staff receiving pay increases whilst others may not. We will be discussing this with NARS with a view to coordinating the timings of discussions of the National Joint Council for any future changes to agreed wage rates.

https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/ntf/excel/updated_pay_rates_for_april_2023.xlsx

In addition to these changes please note that the going racing hourly rate will also increase from 1st April to £10.42, that being the National Living Wage. The accommodation offset also increases from to £9.10 a day (from £8.70) /£63.70 per week (from £60.90)

Should you have any questions or queries please get in touch.

Link to NTF Members Area Employment Minimum Wage Rates

<https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/login/memberloginwordy.asp>

Link to New Rates for the Accommodation Offset

https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/members/pdfs/accommodation/nmw_accom_offset_april2023.pdf?8686

RACE PLANNING

BHA reminder – implementation of revised whip rules in Flat racing from **27th March**.

RULES AND GUIDANCE

A reminder of some of the key elements of the new [rules](#) and [guidance](#):

The maximum thresholds for use have been reduced to **six times in a Flat race**

The removal of “discretion” being applied by the stewards around interpretation of whip offences for use above the permitted level. Therefore **every use of the whip will count towards the thresholds for use, unless it has been used clearly and unequivocally for safety purposes.**

The introduction of disqualification as a penalty for use of the whip **four times or more above the permitted level**

Changes to the guidance around whip use, including illustrations of offences such as above shoulder height and without time to respond (three clear strides needed between each use).

The introduction of a **Whip Review Committee** which is responsible for evaluation of all rides and any necessary sanction or action, to increase consistency and drive ongoing improvement in riding standards

Increased penalties for offences, including doubled suspensions for use of the whip above the permitted level in Class 1 and 2 races.

Please note that, for the purposes of cumulative penalties, all jockeys will start with a clean slate from 27 March when the new rules and penalties structure comes into effect.

EDUCATION MODULE

All jockeys are required to complete a [mandatory education module](#) before taking their first ride under either code once the full implementation of the new whip rules has taken place.

No rider will be able to ride in races once the full implementation dates have been reached unless they have completed the education module.

Please speak to any jockeys connected with your yard to check that they have completed the module.

The education module can be found here on the Racing2Learn website:

[Course: Use of the Whip \(racing2learn.com\)](#)

VETERINARY

DEADLINES

1st April 2023 – updated wage agreement, see [link](#)