French Connection confirms that it has been working closely with HMRC who have questioned two aspects of our payroll and timekeeping administration that in a limited number of cases meant that we had inadvertently paid employees less than the minimum wage.

One aspect concerned adjustments for uniform allowances for employees who left a short time after starting work with us, and the second concerned the practice in a small number of stores of holding occasional short staff meetings ranging from 5 to 7 minutes prior to shifts formally starting.

French Connection co-operated fully with HMRC in assessing the amounts involved and paid the arrears at the earliest possible opportunity. We have also introduced additional administrative checks which will prevent this happening in the future. Whilst these underpayments were regrettable, in many cases the amounts involved were small.

French Connection fully supports the UK Government’s minimum wage legislation and we are apologising to our staff for the inconvenience.