

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MON / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
DATE:	12 DECEMBER 2013
TITLE OF REPORT:	INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE REPORT FOLLOWING CONSULTATION IN SEPTEMBER 2013
REPORT BY:	HEAD OF FUNCTION (COUNCIL BUSINESS) / MONITORING OFFICER
CONTACT OFFICER:	LYNN BALL HEAD OF FUNCTION (COUNCIL BUSINESS) / MONITORING OFFICER (ext 2586)

1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Local Authorities now have only limited discretion in relation to the payment of allowances for elected Members; with most decisions now being taken by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

2. PROCESS

By letter dated 1st August 2013, the IRP issued a Draft Supplementary Report, on payments to Co-Opted Members of Local Authorities, by way of consultation. A copy of the letter is attached at **Enclosure 1**. The proposals affected the Co-Opted Members of the Standards Committee (as well as Co-Opted Members of the Audit and Scrutiny Committees).

3. CONSULTATION RESPONSE

On 26 September 2013, the Chief Executive responded to the Consultation. Copy letter attached at **Enclosure 2**.

4. RESULT

On 1 November 2013, an e-mail was received from the Welsh Government containing a letter from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales detailing the decision reached which come into effect from 1st January 2014, copy attached at **Enclosure 3**.

5. RECOMMENDATION

To note the contents of the attached letter from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

ENCLOSURE 1



Our Ref: qA900196

To:

Leaders and Chief Executives of County and County Borough Councils

Chairs and Chief Executives of National Park Authorities

Chairs and Clerks of Fire and Rescue Authorities

Leader and Chief Executive of Welsh Local Government Association

Head of Democratic/Members Services of County and County

Borough Councils, National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities

1 August 2013

Dear Colleagues

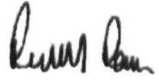
Supplementary Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of payments to Co-opted Members

I enclose a draft of the Supplementary Report that the Independent Remuneration Panel is issuing in respect of payments to co-opted members of local authorities. This arises from the issues that were raised with the Panel during our visits to the 22 Principal Authorities, the 3 National Park Authorities and the 3 Fire and Rescue Authorities. While these are matters that would normally be dealt with in our Annual Report, in the interests of fairness we consider that they should be resolved as soon as possible, rather than wait for the implementation of the next Annual Report in 2014.

The Panel welcomes all views on the proposals contained in the draft Report but would ask you to ensure that it is brought to the attention of all co-opted members of your authority so that they have an opportunity to feed in their views directly.

Responses to the draft are required by 26th September 2013.

Yours sincerely



Richard Penn

Chair

Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales



Our Ref: qA900196

To:

Leaders and Chief Executives of County and County Borough Councils
Chairs and Chief Executives of National Park Authorities
Chairs and Clerks of Fire and Rescue Authorities
Leader and Chief Executive of Welsh Local Government Association
Head of Democratic/Members Services of County and County
Borough Councils, National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities

1 August 2013

Dear Colleagues

**DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT –
PAYMENTS TO CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

1. This constitutes a Supplementary Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (the Panel) in accordance with Section 147 of the Local Government Measure (Wales) 2011 (the Measure). It relates to payments made to co-opted members of Principal Authorities, National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities, who have the right to vote.
2. During a 10 week period, from March to June 2013 the Panel visited each of the 28 authorities and a significant number of points were raised at these meetings. The Panel will be considering these over the coming months in relation to the next or future Annual Reports. However, issues came to light in respect of payments to co-opted members that the Panel believes should be actioned in advance of the next Annual Report which will not take effect until Spring 2014.

3. These issues are:
- i) Recognising that the preparation for meetings can be very time consuming but the current Remuneration Framework does not allow this time to be included for payment.
 - ii) While co-opted members are entitled to claim travelling expenses, the Framework does not indicate whether travelling time to and from meetings can be counted in the assessment of whether a meeting is a full day or half day for payment purposes.
 - iii) Several co-opted members expressed concerns that they were not made aware, in advance whether meetings were scheduled for a half day or a full day. This created difficulties for planning their diaries, particularly if the individual member had other work related activities to be planned. It was suggested that the Monitoring Officer (or other relevant officer) could be authorised to set the appropriate fee in advance having determined the likely time required to deal with the agenda.
 - iv) There was a lack of clarity over what constituted a "meeting". The Panel was asked to consider whether it includes other committees or working groups (including task & finish groups) that co-opted members are requested to attend.

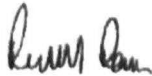
4. The Panel has considered these matters and has decided:

Determinations

- i) Reasonable time for pre meeting preparation is eligible to be included in claims made by co-opted members the extent of which can be determined by the appropriate officer in advance of the meeting.
- ii) Travelling time to and from the place of the meeting can be included in the claims for payments made by co-opted members (up to the maximum of the daily rate).
- iii) The appropriate officer within the authority can determine in advance whether a meeting is programmed for a full day and the fee will be paid on the basis of this determination even if the meeting finishes before four hours has elapsed.
- iv) Meetings eligible for the payment of fee include other committees and working groups (including task and finish groups) or any other formal meeting to which co-opted members are requested to attend. (pre meetings with officers, training and attendance at conferences are already eligible for payment).

Regards

Yours sincerely



Chair

Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

ENCLOSURE 2

Lynn Ball

From: Richard P. Jones
Sent: 04 November 2013 09:27
To: Ieuan Williams; Bob Parry; John Arwel Roberts; Clare J. Williams; Lynn Ball; J Huw. Jones; Hywel Eifion Jones
Subject: FW: IRPW SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT IN RESPECT OF PAYMENTS TO CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN WALES 2013

Er gwybodaeth / for information.

From: Matthews, Lauren (LGC - DEP) [mailto:Lauren.Matthews2@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK]
Sent: 01 November 2013 09:12
To: Hedley.McCarthy@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk; David.waggett@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk; Cllr.MEJ.Nott@bridgend.gov.uk; darren.mepham@bridgend.gov.uk; harryandrews@caerphilly.gov.uk; HJoyce@cardiff.gov.uk; c.salter@cardiff.gov.uk; KMadge@sirgar.gov.uk; mjames@carmarthenshire.gov.uk; eathomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk; ellen.apgwynn@ceredigion.gov.uk; bronwenm@ceredigion.gov.uk; cllr.dilwyn.roberts@conwy.gov.uk; iwan.davies@conwy.gov.uk; hugh.evans@denbighshire.gov.uk; mohammed.mehmet@denbighshire.gov.uk; Aaron.shotton@flintshire.gov.uk; chief_executive@flintshire.gov.uk; Cynghorydd.Dyfededwards@gwynedd.gov.uk; harrythomas@gwynedd.gov.uk; Ieuan Williams; Richard P. Jones; democratic@merthyr.gov.uk; chief.executive@merthyr.gov.uk; peterfox@monmouthshire.gov.uk; paulmatthews@monmouthshire.gov.uk; leader@npt.gov.uk; s.phillips@npt.gov.uk; Bob.bright@newport.gov.uk; will.godfrey@newport.gov.uk; leader@pembrokeshire.gov.uk; chief.executive@pembrokeshire.gov.uk; Anthony.christopher@rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk; keith.griffiths@rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk; david.phillips@swansea.gov.uk; jack.straw@swansea.gov.uk; leader@torfaen.gov.uk; alison.ward@torfaen.gov.uk; NMoore@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk; sdavies@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk; cllr.david.jones@powys.gov.uk; jeremyp@powys.gov.uk; Neil.rogers@wrexham.gov.uk; chiefexecutive@wrexham.gov.uk
Cc: Lakeman, Sarah (LGC - DEP); Cuthbert, Frank (LGC - DEP)
Subject: IRPW SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT IN RESPECT OF PAYMENTS TO CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN WALES 2013

Annwyl gydweithiwr,

Gweler isod linc i'r Adroddiad Atodol mewn perthynas â thaliadau i aelodau cyfetholedig awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru a gyhoeddwyd gan Banel Annibynnol Cymru ar Gydnabyddiaeth Ariannol heddiw.

<http://wales.gov.uk/irpwsub/home/publication/201314/supplementary-report-2013/?lang=cy>

Gyda phob hwyl,

Lauren

Dear Colleague,

Please find below a link to the Supplementary Report in respect of payments to co-opted members of local authorities in Wales by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

<http://wales.gov.uk/irpwsub/home/publication/201314/supplementary-report-2013/?lang=en>

Kind regards,

Lauren

Lauren Matthews

Cymorth Tîm / Team support

Partneriaeth Llywodraethu ac Effeithiolrwydd / Partnership Governance and Effectiveness

Yr Is-adran Democratiaeth, Moeseg a Phartneriaeth / Democracy, Ethics & Partnership Division

Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government

Parc Cathays / Cathays Park

Caerdydd / Cardiff

Ffôn / Phone: **02920 825 401**

lauren.matthews2@cymru.gsi.gov.uk

Hapus i gyfathrebu yn Gymraeg.

On leaving the Government Secure Intranet this email was certified virus free. Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

Wrth adael Mewnrwyd Ddiogel y Llywodraeth nid oedd unrhyw feirws yn gysylltiedig â'r neges hon.

Mae'n ddigon posibl y bydd unrhyw ohebiaeth drwy'r GSi yn cael ei logio, ei monitro a/neu ei chofnodi yn awtomatig am resymau cyfreithiol.



To :

Leaders and Chief Executives of County and County Borough Councils

Chairs and Chief Executives of National Park Authorities

Chairs and Clerks of Fire and Rescue Authorities

Leader and Chief Executive of the Welsh Local Government Association

Heads of Democratic/Member Services of County and County Borough Councils, National Park and Fire and Rescue Authorities

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT IN RESPECT OF PAYMENTS TO CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN WALES

1. This constitutes a Supplementary Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (the Panel) in accordance with Section 147 of the Local Government Measure (Wales) 2011 (the Measure). It relates to payments made to co-opted members of Principal Authorities, National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities, who have the right to vote.
2. During a 10 week period, from March to June 2013 the Panel visited each of the 28 authorities and issues were raised in respect of payments to co-opted members. The Panel considers that there are matters that need to be rectified and that this should be actioned in advance of the next Annual Report which will not take effect until Spring 2014.
3. These issues are:
 - i) Recognising that the preparation for meetings can be very time consuming but the current Remuneration Framework does not allow this time to be included for payment.
 - ii) While co-opted members are entitled to claim travelling expenses, the Framework does not indicate whether travelling time to and from meetings can be counted in the assessment of whether a meeting is a full day or half day for payment purposes.
 - iii) Several co-opted members expressed concerns that they were not made aware, in advance whether meetings were scheduled for a half day or a full day. This created difficulties for planning their diaries, particularly if the individual member had other work related activities to be planned. It was suggested that the Monitoring Officer (or other relevant officer) could be authorised to set the appropriate fee in advance having determined the likely time required to deal with the agenda.
 - iv) There was a lack of clarity over what constituted a "meeting". The Panel was asked to consider whether it includes other committees or working groups (including task & finish groups) that co-opted members are requested to attend.

A draft Supplementary Report was issued on the 1st August 2013 and the Panel has examined the responses received. The majority were in favour of the proposed determinations contained in the draft Report.

4. The Panel has decided:

Determinations

- i) Reasonable time for pre meeting preparation is eligible to be included in claims made by co-opted members the extent of which can be determined by the appropriate officer in advance of the meeting.
- ii) Travelling time to and from the place of the meeting can be included in the claims for payments made by co-opted members (up to the maximum of the daily rate).
- iii) The appropriate officer within the authority can determine in advance whether a meeting is programmed for a full day and the fee will be paid on the basis of this determination even if the meeting finishes before four hours has elapsed.
- iv) Meetings eligible for the payment of fee include other committees and working groups (including task and finish groups) or any other formal meeting to which co-opted members are requested to attend. (pre meetings with officers, training and attendance at conferences are already eligible for payment).

5. These determinations will take effect on the 1st January 2014.

Yours sincerely



Richard Penn

Chair

ENCLOSURE 3



CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

RICHARD PARRY JONES, M.A.
Prif Weithredwr
Chief Executive

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL
Swyddfa'r Sir
LLANGFNI
Ynys Môn - Anglesey
LL77 7TW

Gofynnwch am - Please ask for: Carol Roberts

☎ (01248) 752102 ☎(01248)750839

E-Bost-E-mail: richardparryjones@anglesey.gov.uk

Ein Cyf - Our Ref. RPJ/CR
Eich Cyf - Your Ref. qA900196

Richard Penn
Chair
Independent Remuneration Panel
for Wales

26 September 2013

Dear Mr Penn,

**SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL
IN RESPECT OF PAYMENTS TO
CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

I refer to your letter of 1 August 2013 regarding the above matter.

I wish to inform you that the content of your letter has been discussed with the Group Leaders for all the Political Groups within the Council, together with the co-opted members of the Standards Committee.

I have been authorised to inform you that this Council supports the four recommendations in your Draft Supplementary Report, and I should be grateful if you could convey this information to members of your Panel.

We now look forward, in time, to receiving your final determinations.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Parry Jones
Chief Executive