

Independent Review Panel - Financial Support for Members

IRP – 57

Response from Frank Little

From: Frank Little [mailto:frankhlittle@hotmail.com]

Sent: 20 January 2009 07:28

To: Reading, Chris (APS - Corporate Unit)

Subject: Panel on Members' Pay & Allowances

I refer to your letter of 5th January.

Not for the first time, I have had trouble linking to a page on wales.gsi.gov.uk. I think it unlikely that I will be able to attend the Cardiff public meeting. Therefore, please accept the following as my contribution to the debate.

I feel that the pay of Assembly Members should be decoupled from Westminster pay scales in favour of linking to a Welsh wages index. This should have two effects: isolating the Senedd pay bill from London pay inflation; and giving the Welsh electorate more of a sense of ownership of their Assembly. (I am aware that this may impact councillors' allowances, but then I believe that these are too high anyway.)

As to allowances, I would not try to make the rules more restrictive. If people are determined to exploit them, they will always find a loophole. What we must be assured of is continuing full disclosure of what AMs claim for. In that way, the electorate can make an appropriate judgment.

Regards,
Frank Little
Councillor (Liberal Democrat), Cadoxton Ward
Neath County Borough Council