

From: Franks, Christopher (Assembly Member)
[mailto:Christopher.Franks@wales.gov.uk]
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To: Bevan, Dianne (Chief Operating Officer)
Subject: Sorry for the delay in responding to the review of AMs Salaries and Allowances.doc

Review of AMs Salaries and Allowances

Sorry for the delay in responding to the review of AMs Salaries and Allowances. the following is the submission on behalf of the Plaid Cymru Assembly Group.

There is a clear increase in responsibilities since the creation of the Assembly and there is every likelihood of responsibilities continuing to grow.

The public however is critical of what they consider politicians appearing to be grasping and focused on their income rather than public service. There is a strong feeling that at a time when the public sector is faced with a 1.9% pay award an award in excess of that amount would be greeted with dismay across Wales. There is a need to revisit this matter but the time is not right to sanction an inflation busting award.

As a part of a future review the link between A M and M Ps pay need to be addressed in the context of increasing duties.

I do have comments to make regarding allowances about. The case work demands on AMs are increasingly becoming greater than most MPs and are likely to grow.

The issue of the allowance that MPs can apply in respect of adverts in newspapers needs to be addressed. The allowance of £10,000 for each M P is not available to AMs. This means that M Ps can place adverts for surgeries in newspaper whereas AMs cannot afford this expenditure.

There is a need to address the anomaly between AMs and M Ps where a communications allowance is available only to M Ps. In addition MPs can issue an annual report via the post. A Ms do not have adequate resources to carry out this task.

Chris Franks

Plaid Cymru Chief Whip