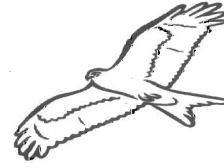


MERTHYR CYNOG
CYNGOR CYMUNED COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Mr C Reading
Clerk to the Panel
Independent Panel on Members' Pay and Allowances
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

10th January 2009

Dear Sir

Call for Evidence

The above Community Council recently met and considered correspondence received regarding the above. The comments made were as follows:

Members strongly felt that in the current financial climate, Assembly Members should not receive any additional pay or allowances. It was considered that any increase at this time would send the wrong messages to the people of Wales.

Having looked at allowances for Assembly Members, Councillors were surprised that the list contained items which they considered were the kind of normal household purchases that we all have to make, i.e. Personal computer equipment and non essential items.

Councillors also asked if clarification could be received on what is considered normal travelling distance from constituency to Cardiff that does not incur the need for a second home. Many people living in mid Wales travel to Cardiff for their day to day work, but some Assembly Members appear to live within a reasonable travelling distance, but also run a second home in Cardiff.

The Council are grateful to the Assembly for the opportunity to address these points.

Yours sincerely

A. Thomas

Clerk, Merthyr Cynog Community Council