



Chris Reading  
Clerk  
Independent Panel on Members' Pay and Allowances  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

15 January 2009

Dear Chris,

**Independent Panel on Members' Pay and Allowances - call for evidence**

I am making a contribution to this based on the experience of the GTCW. I recognise that the 25 members of the Council of GTCW are not employed by the Council (they will all be employed by others, self-employed or retired from employment) and that this differs from the situation faced by Assembly Members who are paid to do their work having been elected as AMs. Therefore this comment applies to members' expenses and allowances, rather than pay.

There is one fundamental principle which should apply to the claiming of expenses. **The principle is that members should not be 'out of pocket' as a result of their work for the Assembly but neither should they personally profit from their work on its behalf.** Any reasonable expenditure incurred by AMs should be reimbursed by the Assembly. Of course, the trick is in defining what is 'reasonable expenditure' and this is a matter for the Independent Panel to define.

I trust this principle is not too obvious a point to make.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Brace  
Chief Executive

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