

JRP - 56

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WHITTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

23 January 2009

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

Dear Chris,

CALL FOR EVIDENCE

At their January 09 meeting, the Whitton Community Councillors discussed the recent request for views on the system of pay and allowances for AMs.

The Community Councillors did not feel that they had sufficient information on this subject to be able to comment. They commented that this hints at the lack of transparency in the present system and that it would have been helpful to receive some details on what AMs are paid or can claim under the present system.

The emphatic view of the Whitton Community Council is that whatever system is in place, it should be seen as providing significant value for money to tax payers and electors and that the ordinary person would view the amounts paid as being reasonable when compared to their own earning potential.

Kind Regards,



A G Hopkins
Clerk to Whitton Community Council

WHITTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

27 February 2009

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

Dear Chris,

CALL FOR EVIDENCE

At their February 09 meeting, the Whitton Community Councillors discussed your letter of 26th January with which you enclosed information relating to AMs salaries and allowances.

The Community Councillors' view is that it is still difficult to comment on what value individual AMs provide without a list of individual claims and their attendance records at debates etc. However the overriding decision on what value is provided depends on whether that AM's contribution makes a positive difference to the lives of ordinary people and for this a measure of performance will be required.

A further point made was that the ordinary worker pays his or her own travelling costs to attend their work and in rural areas this can be a significant proportion of their wage and also in outlying areas limited or no public transport is available. There is therefore an argument that AMs have chosen their vocation and therefore should pay their own travelling costs.

The Community Councillors hope that these comments contribute towards the debate.

Kind Regards,



A G Hopkins
Clerk to Whitton Community Council