



To :

Leaders and Chief Executives of County and County Borough Councils

Chairs and Chief Executives of National Park Authorities

Chairs and Clerks of Fire and Rescue Authorities

Leader and Chief Executive of the Welsh Local Government Association

Heads of Democratic/Member Services of County and County Borough Councils, National Park and Fire and Rescue Authorities

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT IN RESPECT OF PAYMENTS TO CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN WALES

1. This constitutes a Supplementary Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (the Panel) in accordance with Section 147 of the Local Government Measure (Wales) 2011 (the Measure). It relates to payments made to co-opted members of Principal Authorities, National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities, who have the right to vote.
2. During a 10 week period, from March to June 2013 the Panel visited each of the 28 authorities and issues were raised in respect of payments to co-opted members. The Panel considers that there are matters that need to be rectified and that this should be actioned in advance of the next Annual Report which will not take effect until Spring 2014.
3. These issues are:
 - i) Recognising that the preparation for meetings can be very time consuming but the current Remuneration Framework does not allow this time to be included for payment.
 - ii) While co-opted members are entitled to claim travelling expenses, the Framework does not indicate whether travelling time to and from meetings can be counted in the assessment of whether a meeting is a full day or half day for payment purposes.
 - iii) Several co-opted members expressed concerns that they were not made aware, in advance whether meetings were scheduled for a half day or a full day. This created difficulties for planning their diaries, particularly if the individual member had other work related activities to be planned. It was suggested that the Monitoring Officer (or other relevant officer) could be authorised to set the appropriate fee in advance having determined the likely time required to deal with the agenda.
 - iv) There was a lack of clarity over what constituted a "meeting". The Panel was asked to consider whether it includes other committees or working groups (including task & finish groups) that co-opted members are requested to attend.

A draft Supplementary Report was issued on the 1st August 2013 and the Panel has examined the responses received. The majority were in favour of the proposed determinations contained in the draft Report.

4. The Panel has decided:

Determinations

- i) Reasonable time for pre meeting preparation is eligible to be included in claims made by co-opted members the extent of which can be determined by the appropriate officer in advance of the meeting.
 - ii) Travelling time to and from the place of the meeting can be included in the claims for payments made by co-opted members (up to the maximum of the daily rate).
 - iii) The appropriate officer within the authority can determine in advance whether a meeting is programmed for a full day and the fee will be paid on the basis of this determination even if the meeting finishes before four hours has elapsed.
 - iv) Meetings eligible for the payment of fee include other committees and working groups (including task and finish groups) or any other formal meeting to which co-opted members are requested to attend. (pre meetings with officers, training and attendance at conferences are already eligible for payment).
5. These determinations will take effect on the 1st January 2014.

Yours sincerely



Richard Penn

Chair