



Chair of the Remuneration Committee

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016

Dear Chair

**Your letter of 13<sup>th</sup> July**

I am deeply concerned that, in the same year as Assembly Members have received an unpalatable pay rise of £10,000 ostensibly for the additional responsibilities brought about by additional powers, the Remuneration Board is now seeking to extend the outer area for the recompense of travelling expenses to the whole of the UK.

In theory, this means that I can choose to move to the Outer Hebrides and still expect the Welsh tax payer to pay my expenses to get to Cardiff Bay.

Prospective Assembly Members make a choice to stand in Wales and if they are unwilling to move to Wales and contribute to Welsh communities both financially in terms of property related taxes, and personally in terms of social capital, that is a matter for them.

Those we represent do not get any recompense for travelling expenses – they just get on with making ends meet and getting to work.

While I note what you say about comparison with other legislatures, I know I will not be able to sell that argument to most of my constituents. On that basis, I also consider the additional payments for Committee Chairs to be high, when seen as a proportion of the salary they receive. Surely being elected to public office is enough? Chairs have responsibility, opportunities for self-development and kudos and these are also a form of recompense.

£13K is an annual salary for some of my constituents – Assembly Members and the Remuneration Committee need to remain in the real world or risk continued disengagement of the voting public.

