

Dame Dawn Primarolo
Chair
Remuneration Board
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

7 October 2016

Dear Dawn

The Remuneration Board consulted recently on a possible alteration to its Determination in respect of residential accommodation for Members whose main residence is outside Wales. I am aware that this has generated feedback expressing concern that there is no requirement for Members elected to the National Assembly to be resident in Wales. Clearly, your consultation has shone a light on an issue that has not previously attracted attention as, until now, all Assembly Members have identified their main residence as being in Wales. Electoral law is a complex area and the Assembly's competence is defined too by overarching Human Rights and EU law. Within these constraints, the Wales Bill, currently in Parliament, will devolve responsibility for electoral matters to the Assembly. It may be, therefore, that the Assembly, in the future, can consider its ability and appetite to change the law in this area.

More pressingly, I appreciate you have a decision to make. In order to ensure that all Members have the financial support necessary for them to undertake their role effectively, which is a fundamental, statutory, part of your role as a Board, my understanding is that you already have flexibility to agree to different residential accommodation arrangements for Members to reflect exceptional circumstances. Given the context, I would urge you to continue the temporary arrangements already put in place rather than making any permanent change to your Determination.

Yours sincerely



Elin Jones AM
Llywydd

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

