

[REDACTED]

11th September 2016

Dear Dame Dawn Primarolo,

We wish to comment on the proposal presented to the Welsh Assembly by the Remuneration Board of which you are Chair viz. "We propose amending the Determination so that Members whose main home is outside Wales are eligible for residential accommodation expenditure. The Board will give effect to such an amendment by extending the 'Outer Area (currently the Mid and West Wales and North Wales regions that have the maximum allowance)' to the whole of the U.K.

Clearly this proposal is likely to give rise to the most absurd and inequitable consequences. While there may be an argument for Members living outside Wales to receive such an allowance for a strictly limited period (a maximum of six months following election) pending relocation to a permanent residence within Wales, there is no justification whatsoever for taxpayers to subsidise Members who are so lacking in commitment to their constituents that they are not prepared to live anywhere near them.

This proposal undermines the authority of the Assembly and is, in our view, disrespectful to those Members who take seriously their duties to their constituencies and to Wales as a whole. It seems to herald a return to the days of rotten boroughs and pocket boroughs where some Parliamentarians had all the influence and financial opportunities afforded by being MPs without any responsibility towards the ordinary people in their constituencies.

It is surely essential that the Board reconsider this proposal which offers no observable benefit to the people of Wales but, on the contrary, is open to potential

exploitation by a handful of unscrupulous and unprincipled opportunists.

It is not the minutiae of the remuneration structure which needed amending but the Government of Wales Act 2006, so that Members of the Welsh Assembly are required to reside within Wales.

Yours sincerely,

