

# Remuneration Board

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Meeting Venue: **Conference Room 4B - Tŷ Hywel**

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Meeting date: **Friday, 20 February 2015**

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Meeting time: **09.00 - 16.30**

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Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



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## Concise Minutes: WRB (31)

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### Board Members:

**Sandy Blair CBE DL (Chair)**  
**Mary Carter**  
**Professor Monojit Chatterji**  
**Professor Laura McAllister**

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### Officials:

**Richard Bettley**  
**John Chick, National Assembly for Wales**  
**Adrian Crompton, Director of Assembly Business**  
**Anna Daniel, Head of Strategic Transformation**  
**Matthew Richards**  
**Matt Dicks, Media Relations Team**  
**Non Gwilym, Head of Communications**  
**Rebecca Hardwicke, Members' Business Support**

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### Board Staff:

**Gareth Price (Clerk)**  
**Daniel Collier (Deputy Clerk)**

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## 1 Chair's introduction

1.1 The Chair welcomed Board members to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies had been received from Stuart Castledine.

1.3 Subject to minor amendments, the Board agreed the minutes of the meeting on 16 January 2015.

## **2 Assembly Members Support Staff: consideration of responses to consultation on 2015-16 Pay award**

2.1 The Board considered all responses to the consultation on the 2015–16 pay ward for Assembly Member Support Staff.

2.2 The Board noted that the decision on AMSS pay for 2016–17 will be a matter for consideration in January 2016.

### **Action point:**

- Write to AMSS setting out the Boards intention to increase their salary by 1% or the increase in ASHE Welsh median earnings – whichever is greater.

## **3 Determination for the final year of the Fourth Assembly: Responses to consultation**

3.1 The Board noted that the Welsh Liberal Democrat group were the only formal respondents to the consultation on the Determination for the final year of the Fourth Assembly.

3.2 The Board noted that this consultation will apply up to the day of the election results.

## **4 Assembly Member salaries for Fifth Assembly: Decision**

3.1 The Board viewed and commented on video of media coverage of the consultation on AM salaries, which included in depth analysis and an interview with the Chair. The Board noted a paper summarising the consultation responses, social media and media coverage, and the Assembly Petition protesting against the proposed increase.

3.2 The Board emphasised that it was disappointed that so few had responded to the consultation.

3.3 The Board agreed that it had given full consideration to all factors including – the changing responsibilities of the role, comparative salaries both in the general Welsh market and other UK Parliaments, and the different levels of average pay in different parts of the UK, in reaching its original proposal.

3.4 The Board concluded that it would retain its original proposal for AM salaries (£64,000) in the consultation on the Determination for the Fifth Assembly.

## **5 Determination for Fifth Assembly: Group Support**

3.1 The Board considered a paper on Group Support for the Fifth Assembly, which outlined the current system of financial support for political groups and sought the Board's decision to include in the consultation on the Determination.

3.2 The Board discussed feedback received from Party Groups, which had been gathered through informal discussions with the Chair and the Clerk.

3.3 The Board agreed to consider further models for Group Support before agreeing a proposal for inclusion in the Draft Determination for the Fifth Assembly.

**Action points:**

- Monojit to provide a variety of different models for Group Support by Monday 23 February.

## **6 Legacy: Discussion on the renewal of the Remuneration Board**

6.1 The Board discussed legacy issues for the new Remuneration Board.

## **7 Determination for the Fifth Assembly: Consideration of Determination for consultation**

6.1 The Board noted progress in preparing the Draft Determination for the Fifth Assembly and the accompanying report, pending the decisions reached earlier in the meeting.

6.2 The Board agreed to consider new passages containing the new decisions, and any other amendments to the Draft Determination and the accompanying report via email.

**Action point:**

- The Secretariat to complete and amend the draft Determination and accompanying report accordingly and circulate the Board for comment.

6.3 The Board noted the draft Communications Plan for the consultation on the Determination for the Fifth Assembly, and discussed the key messages it wished to convey.