

Agenda – Standards of Conduct Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 5 – Tŷ Hywel

Meeting date: 12 February 2019

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Meriel Singleton

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddStandards@assembly.wales

- 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**

- 2 Report 03–18 to the Assembly under Standing Order 22.9**
(09.30 – 09.45) (Pages 1 – 4)
SoC(5)–03–18 Paper 1 – Letter from Dame Dawn Primarolo, Chair of the Remuneration Board (29 January 2019)
SoC(5)–03–18 Paper 2 – Letter from the Llywydd (31 January 2019)

- 3 Code of Conduct – Review: Next Steps**
(09.45 – 11.00) (Pages 5 – 18)
SoC(5)–03–19 Paper 3 – Committee paper



Jayne Bryant AM, Chair
Standards of Conduct Committee

29 January 2019

Dear Jayne

Report 03-18 to the Assembly under Standing Order 22.9

The Remuneration Board considered the Standards of Conduct Committee report under Standing Order 22.9 at its meeting on 17 January 2019.

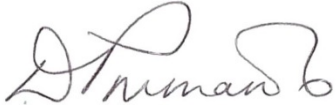
The Board has commenced its review of the Determination for the Sixth Assembly, and is currently considering the issues contained within Part One of the review, which includes the provisions surrounding the Office Costs Allowance.

The Board welcomes the Committee's recommendations on how the provisions within the Determination could be amended to mitigate the likelihood of the situation outlined in your report reoccurring. The Board shares the Committee's views in ensuring that public funds are used appropriately by Members whilst they discharge their duties and is considering how it may incorporate your recommendations within the Determination for the Sixth Assembly. Any changes would be subject to a public consultation. As outlined on the Board's website, the consultation period for any changes to the Office Cost Allowance for the Sixth Assembly is anticipated to take place later in spring 2019. The secretariat will ensure that the Committee receives the Board's consultation proposals in due course.

BWRDD **TALIADAU**
REMUNERATION BOARD

If you would like to discuss the matter further, please don't hesitate to contact the Board through the [secretariat](#).

Best wishes,



Dame Dawn Primarolo

Chair, Remuneration Board

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Elin Jones AC, Llywydd

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer

National Assembly for Wales

Jayne Bryant AM
Chair
Standards of Conduct Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Your ref:
Our ref: EJ/RH

31 January 2019

Dear Jayne

Response to the 03-18 report under Standing Order 22.9

The Commission has been asked to consider recommendations made by the Standards of Conduct Committee and the Commissioner for Standards in their 03-18 report under Standing Order 22.9.

I am aware that the Remuneration Board has also been asked to consider the recommendations and will write to you separately. However the purpose of this letter is to provide the Commission's response to these recommendations.

The Determination outlines the requirements regarding accessing the Office Cost Allowance. Members Business Support (MBS) offers advice and guidance to Members to enable them to make best use of the financial support available. MBS has developed a booklet on [how to acquire a constituency or regional office](#).

The guidance contains matters Members should take into consideration when finding an office and negotiating a lease. We therefore accept your recommendation that the Assembly Commission produces a checklist for Members which suggests areas to consider and steps to take when finding an constituency office. MBS will extend this guidance to include a checklist.

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

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Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer

National Assembly for Wales

MBS will also make adjustments to the guidance and any procedures they undertake in providing support services and processing claims in relation to allowances provided through the Determination for regional or constituency offices in line with the response of the Remuneration Board.

Yours sincerely

Elin Jones AM
Llywydd

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