



William Powell AC
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Your ref:
Our ref: PO1133/RB/CN

30 November 2015

Dear William

Thank you for your letter dated 17 November.

My view is that the role of an Assembly Member is demanding, varied and not one that can be performed within typical, fixed working hours. It is usual, for example, for Members to have to fulfil commitments to constituents or others late into the evening throughout the week. The computers in the Siambr are intended to function as alternative work stations away from the office, so that Members can deal with other matters while sitting in the Siambr, and it is up to Members how they use their time. They are also used by Members to communicate on matters pertinent to the debate, for example, to receive briefings, speeches or to request the opportunity to speak. Having said all this, I fully understand that members of the public would expect Members to be engaged with any debate before the Assembly.

The Assembly uses technology extensively, and the transparent nature of our proceedings in plenary means that the public are able to scrutinise the activities of Members in the Siambr in this way, although we rarely get complaints. If the petitioner has identified particular Members, they would of course be at liberty to write to them personally to complain; alternatively they may wish to write to any of the Party Group offices here in Cardiff Bay.

Rosemary

Dame Rosemary Butler AM
Presiding Officer

E-bost newydd: Swyddfa.Breifat@cynulliad.cymru / Rhif ffôn newydd: 0300 200 6232

New e-mail: Private.Office@assembly.wales / New telephone number: 0300 200 6232

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg/We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

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