

4 December 2017

Dear Assembly Member,

The Remuneration Board met on 23 November 2017. The following is a summary of its discussion and decisions, and a brief update on its work programme.

I and my fellow Board members were saddened to hear of the passing of Carl Sargeant. We send our deepest condolences and sympathies to Carl's family, friends and colleagues.

Arrangements for reporting of inappropriate behaviour at the National Assembly for Wales

The Board considered the latest developments with regards to the work being undertaken on the reporting of inappropriate behaviour at the National Assembly. The Board welcomed and agreed with the recent statement issued by the Llywydd, the party group leaders and the Chair of Standards of Conduct Committee

Further to my meeting the same day with the Llywydd and Chair of Standards of Conduct Committee, the Board will be working closely with Assembly Commission and the Committee to develop a Respect and Dignity Policy that clarifies the conduct expected of all who work in the National Assembly as well as ensuring that all support and procedures that the Board has oversight for formally tie in with this new policy. The Board have also committed to further reviewing the policies and procedures that are in place for Support Staff and working with these staff members to ensure that the provisions in place are robust, accessible and fit for purpose.

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

Review of staffing support for Members

The Board considered the next stages of its review of staffing support for Members. The Board agreed that it will begin to gather evidence through a survey that will be issued to all Members and Support Staff in December, as well undertake qualitative interviews with a sample of Members and Support Staff in the new year. The Board will write to you in due course outlining how you will be able to feed in your views to the review.

The Board intends to present a set of recommendations for consultation with stakeholders in summer 2018. Its final report will be published later in 2018. The Board will provide regular updates to both Members and Support Staff as the review develops.

Other matters

The Board noted the impact of the recent Welsh Government Cabinet reshuffle on the amounts allocated to groups under the political party allowances provided for in the Determination. The Board would like to remind Members that Members' Business Support can provide further information and guidance as to how the allowance is allocated.

This letter will also be published on our website as is our usual practice. If you would like to discuss any matter with me, or with one of my fellow Board members, please do not hesitate to contact me via the secretariat.

Best wishes,



**Dame Dawn Primarolo
Chair
Remuneration Board**