

Rt Hon Dame Dawn Primarolo
Chair, Remuneration Board

8 December 2017

Dear Chair

Inquiry on the Remuneration Board's Determination Underspend

As you may be aware the way the Assembly Commission utilises the Remuneration Board's determinations underspend has been a concern of the Finance Committee for some time.

As part of our scrutiny of the Commission's draft Budget for 2018–19, we were keen to understand how the element for the Remuneration Board's decisions are set and how any underspends are then allocated. Our main concerns centred around the way the Commission utilise the underspend and the transparency around the total funding available to the Commission.

We reported in October 2017 on the Commission's draft Budget and agreed that we would undertake a short inquiry to firmly establish how other parliaments, within the UK and more widely, budget for expenditure related to Members' pay and allowances, to satisfy ourselves as to whether the way the Commission prepares its budget is the most transparent and effective way of budgeting.

I wanted to take this opportunity to notify you that we agreed the terms of reference for our inquiry at our meeting on 7 December 2017:

To consider:

- how the Assembly Commission forecasts its budget for Remuneration Board determinations;
- whether the way in which the Assembly Commission provides information on the underspend is clear and transparent;



- how the Assembly Commission decides to utilise the underspend after meeting the Remuneration Board's determinations; and
- how other parliaments, within the UK and more widely, budget for expenditure related to Members' pay and allowances.

Whilst appreciating that how the Commission budgets is not a matter that the Remuneration Board would be involved in, the Committee wanted to make you aware of the inquiry should you have any views.

Should you require any further information, please contact: Leanne Hatcher, Committee Clerk, 0300 200 6343, SeneddFinance@assembly.wales

Yn gywir



Simon Thomas AC

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu'n Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

