

Huw Vaughan Thomas
Auditor General for Wales

8 December 2017

Dear Huw

Inquiry on the Remuneration Board's Determination Underspend

As you will 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 and we previously sought your advice on the approach taken by the Assembly Commission in setting its budget.

We recently reported on the Assembly Commission Draft Budget 2018–19 and agreed to undertake an inquiry to establish how other parliaments, budget for expenditure related to Members' pay and allowances. At our meeting on 7 December 2017, we agreed the terms of reference for our inquiry:

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.

To assist with our inquiry, we would like to invite you to attend a meeting of the Committee to explore these issues further. As I mentioned, we have previously considered advice from your office on the Commission's current approach and I



have attached a copy of the letter for ease of reference. Should you wish to provide any additional information or update the advice previously provided, it would be helpful to receive this by **Friday 9 February 2018**.

Should you require any clarification or 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.

