

Mark Drakeford AM  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance

8 December 2017

Dear Mark

### Inquiry on the Remuneration Board's Determination Underspend

The Finance Committee has been concerned for some time about how the Assembly Commission utilises the Remuneration Board's determinations underspend.

We reported in October 2017 on the Commission's draft Budget 2018–19 and agreed to 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. 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.

The Committee would be keen to hear from you about how any changes to the way the Assembly Commission prepares its budget and manages in-year financing, including underspends, or any potential future overspends, on the



budgeted Remuneration Board determination, might have an impact on the budget / supplementary budget process.

The Committee has previously written to the Auditor General for Wales for his views on the Commission's current approach. I have attached the response from his office which provides further context on the issue. It would be helpful if we could receive a response from you 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](mailto:SeneddFinance@assembly.wales)

Yn gywir



Simon Thomas AC

Chair

*Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu'n Saesneg.*

*We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.*

