

BWRDD TALIADAU
REMUNERATION BOARD

Simon Thomas AM
Chair, Finance Committee

22 January 2018

Dear Simon

Inquiry on the Remuneration Board's Determination Underspend

Thank you for your letter dated 8 December 2017, and for drawing the Remuneration Board's attention to the short inquiry the Finance Committee are currently undertaking to establish how other parliaments, within the UK and more widely, budget for expenditure related to Members' pay and allowances.

The Finance Committee will be aware the Remuneration Board functions, as set out in section 3 of the [National Assembly for Wales \(Remuneration\) Measure 2010](#), is to determine the level of remuneration and system of financial support for Assembly Members which enables them to fulfil their roles. It is the role of the Assembly Commission to ensure the budget for the Remuneration Board is sufficient to meet all obligations as set out in the Determination.

In certain circumstances the underspend is used for unforeseen circumstances. Examples of these circumstances would be the costs to provide additional security measures for Members following the tragic murder of Jo Cox MP and decisions taken on individual Members' circumstances which require the Board to use its exceptional powers. These decisions can be taken by the Board, when necessary, without recourse to the Assembly Commission seeking additional

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funds. This protects the Board's independence and confidentiality of the Members.

Should the budget not be fully utilised by Members it is the Commission's role to determine how to allocate any related underspend. Therefore it would be inappropriate for the Board to comment how the Commission allocates the potential underspend.

We look forward to the receiving the outcome of the inquiry in due course.

Best wishes,



Dame Dawn Primarolo

Chair, Remuneration Board

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.