

## **Independent Review Panel - Financial Support for Members**

IRP - 02

**Response** from Evans, John

20 October 2008 17:44

Dear Mr Reading,

Thank you for e-mail.

My comments are as follows:-

1. The Panel cannot be called 'independent' because two members have a vested interest i.e Mr Wigley and the Midlands member.
2. No member of the public is represented.
3. Will the panel seek the views of many people who travel daily to Cardiff to work and do not receive travelling expenses. However, I do accept that it would be reasonable to pay travel costs should the mileage exceed 50 miles..
4. If overnight stays are required this should be booked through the Assembly offices who could negotiate favourable rates in hotels,B&B's,or whatever. We certainly would like to avoid the way MP's allowances are abused to purchase properties and then gain on sale of same There may be a case for flats to be purchased by the Assembly in the Cardiff area which would be available for late sittings.
5. AM's were fully aware of the circumstances regarding travelling before they were elected. They are well paid and far better off than many who have to travel long distances to seek employment particularly in the present economic situation. They should set an example to the public at large that they are exposed to the same problems. Unfortunately the example set by MP's clearly demonstrates that they could not care less and keep milking the system.

J Evans