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Chris Reading
Independent Panel on Members' Pay & Allowances
Welsh Assembly Government
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff. CF99 1NA

3rd December 2008

Dear Sirs

Call for Evidence

Thank you for your letter in connection with the above. I note the Panel includes Sir Roger Jones and the RT Hon Dafydd Wigley, and I have known them both personally over the years.

Your invitation to contribute towards this inquiry into the paid expenses is welcomed and will be discussed further with our Mayor, Deputy Mayor and County Council representative; I am sure they will wish to contribute.

Clearly, the issue will concern the general public in so far as the cost of the Assembly is concerned, particularly bearing in mind the current economic climate. Indeed one of the observations which one hears and has heard during the present economic difficulties and the credit crunch is that no one has read in the press of a proposal by Ministers, Members of Parliament and Assembly Members, that they should consider contributing by restraint in their pay and allowances to make some saving on the "Public Purse".

My Council considered that there should be much more openness in the publications of expenses so that the general public as a whole are kept fully informed of payments of salaries and expenses and that any such payment are fully justified in the present economic climate.

Please convey these observations to the Panel and I look forward to receiving the Panel's findings in due course.

Yours sincerely


Mr J Parsons
Clerc to Machynlleth Town Council