

GRP - 20

Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council

Cygor Cymuned Llangatwg Feibion Avel

Roy G. Nicholas

Tel/Fax 01600 714181

Clerk to the Council
Proper Officer of the Council

16 Rushey Meadow
MONMOUTH NP25 5BT



Clerc y Cyngor
Swyddog Priodol y Cyngor

16 Dôl Rushey
TREFYNWY NP25 5BT

15 December 2008

Mr Chris Reading
Clerk to
Independent Panel on Members' Pay and Allowances
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
NP99 1NA

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Dear Mr Reading

PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR WELSH ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

Thank you for your letter of November 2008 inviting us to let you have our views on the pay and allowances of Welsh Assembly Members. This was a matter debated at length at our Monthly Meeting held on Thursday last at which all ten of our community councillors were present.

They were of the opinion that Assembly Members are already adequately paid, having noted as part of their terms of reference your wording (2nd paragraph) "while still providing value for money.

I was directed to point out that any review of Assembly Members' pay should take cognisance of the plight of so many of the persons whom they represent. Throughout Wales, hundreds of people are losing their jobs or being asked to take pay cuts. The jobs of Assembly Members are safe for their 'contracted' period and they are unlikely to be told that their jobs could be dependent upon taking a pay cut!


It is time that Assembly Members must realise that they must live in the real world – like the rest of us!

As far as ALLOWANCES are concerned, it is obvious that present rules and regulations are failing to protect the public purse. There is an urgent need to *go back to the drawing board* and to devise wording in plain English or Welsh to prevent their exploitation.

There is revulsion at some of the 'goings-on' revealed by the media this week. Is this "value for money". The answer is definitely not!

We trust that the views of our councillors, who give so freely of their time, will be regarded as constructive, especially as we embark upon such uncertain times which could well last for a prolonged period.

Yours sincerely


Roy G Nicholas
Clerk to the Council

**INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL –
FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS
Y PANEL ANNIBYNNOL AR
GYMORTH ARIANNOL I AELODAU'R
CYNULLIAD**

Independent Review Panel Office/
Swyddfa'r Panel Adolygu Annibynnol
d/o / c/o Chris Reading, Clerc/ Clerk
Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA
Ffon / Tel: 029 2089 8664
E-bost / E-mail:
chris.reading@wales.gsi.gov.uk

18 December 2008]

Dear Mr Nicholas,

I am writing to thank you for your submission, dated 15 December 2008, on behalf of Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council, to the Independent Review Panel on Financial Support for Members, which has been set up to examine the current system of pay and allowances for Assembly Members.

The panel will consider the views you outlined in your submission, together with others received and with evidence they gather during the course of the inquiry. They will report on their findings in spring 2009 and at that time publish on the National Assembly website all evidence they have received.

If you do not want your comments published, please be aware that we will require you to give reasons as to why we should treat the Council's submission as confidential. Please note that in any event, any information received by the Panel may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

In addition to seeking written evidence, the panel would welcome oral evidence and will be inviting individuals and organisations to appear before them. If you feel you or your colleagues have a further contribution to make to assist the Panel, please send me a very brief outline or telephone me to discuss. Your application will be considered alongside any similar ones. You, or your associates, are also welcome to attend a public meeting on the topic, which is to be held at 10am on **27 January in the Celtic Suite, Colchester Avenue Centre, Cardiff. Just call freephone 0845 0105500** to reserve a place.

Thank you once again for your input to the inquiry.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Reading,
Clerc, Independent Panel - Financial Support for Members

Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council
Cyngor Cymuned Llangatwg Feibion Afel

Roy G Nicholas

Tel/Fax 01600 714181

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16 Rushey Meadow
MONMOUTH NP25 5BT



Clerc y Cyngor
Swyddog Priodol y Cyngor

16 Dŵl Rushey
TREFYNWY NP25 5BT

9 February 2009

Mr Chris Reading
Clerk to
Independent Panel on Members' Pay and Allowances
National Assembly for Wales Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA


Dear Mr Reading

PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR WELSH ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

Having reported back to our Community Councillors on the excellent Meeting of the Panel, held at Cardiff and chaired by Sir Roger Jones OBE, I was directed to send a postscript to our original letter of 15thg December 08 to you.

The fact that, except for those Members with special responsibilities, there exists ample scope for concurrent paid employment or 'other' earnings. Due cognisance should be taken of this aspect of being an Assembly Member.

Yours sincerely


Roy G Nicholas
Clerk to the Council

Nicholas Bourne (Mid and West Wales) – Conservative

- 2 Employment**
 - Barrister (non practising)
 - Author
 - Occasional lecturer
- 4 Gifts, hospitality, etc**
 - Occasional fees for broadcasting
 - Ticket and hospitality for Wales V Japan Rugby World Cup from WRU
 - Ticket and hospitality for Wales v Scotland match from WRU
 - Two tickets plus hospitality for the Wales v Canada match from WRU
- 5 Remuneration or other material benefit**
 - Non practising barrister, visiting lecturer at University of Hong Kong (less than £5000)
 - Publisher of legal text books (less than £5000)
 - Broadcasting and editorial work for the written media
- 9 Names of Companies (Shareholdings)**
 - British Airways
 - Rolls Royce
 - British Airports Authority
 - Royal Bank of Scotland
- 10 Membership/Chairmanship of bodies in receipt of Assembly funds**
 - Vice President of the Heart of Wales Line Travellers Association
 - Vice President of Usk House, Brecon