

**Sue Essex AM**

Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services  
Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus

DP 619/03 - 07

STATEMENT ON THE WAG'S RESPONSE TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE CREATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Our ref: Statement to Local Government, 12 July 2004

Your ref:

Christine Gwyther AM  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd  
Caerdydd CF99 1NA  
Switsfwrdd: 029 2082 5111 GTN: 1208  
Ffacs: 029 2089 8131

Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff CF99 1NA  
Switchboard: 029 2082 5111 GTN: 1208  
Fax: 029 2089 8131

4<sup>th</sup> August 2004

Dear Christine

**Pembrokeshire County Council**

In response to your comments in plenary on 13<sup>th</sup> July, my officials have made enquiries as to procedures at Pembrokeshire.

My understanding is that chairs of overview and scrutiny committees were appointed at the council's AGM on 29<sup>th</sup> June and that they were allocated in accord with political balance. Although, of course, that means that the majority of scrutiny chairs remain with the Independent group, there does not appear to have been anything improper in the procedure here.

On your second point, this is not a case of new cabinet members having lower special responsibility allowances (SRAs) than continuing cabinet members. Pembrokeshire recently approached me with a proposal to introduce a layer of "Deputy Cabinet Members", effectively in a development role and without decision-making functions. The proposal was that cabinet members would retain two-thirds of their SRA entitlements, while the remaining third would be allocated to the Deputies. I have approved this proposal.

Best wishes,

Sue Essex