

**Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth Rhif.1
Legislation Committee No.1**



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

27 November 2009

Dear Colleague

**Consultation on the proposed National Assembly for Wales
(Remuneration) Measure**

As part of its Stage 1 consideration, the National Assembly for Wales' Legislation Committee No. 1 ('the Committee') is calling for evidence on the general principles of the [proposed National Assembly for Wales \(Remuneration\) Measure](#) ('the proposed Measure').

What is a Measure?

A Measure is a piece of law made by the Assembly, which has a similar effect to an Act of Parliament. The Assembly is able to pass Measures on any 'matter' listed in [Schedule 5](#) to the Government of Wales Act 2006. The proposed Measure uses Matter 13.3 relating to the National Assembly for Wales.

While a Measure is in progress through the Assembly, it is known as a 'proposed Measure'.

There is a four stage process for the consideration of a proposed Measure. Stage 1 involves consideration of the general principles of the proposed Measure by a committee (which includes the taking of written and oral evidence from interested parties and stakeholders), and the agreement of those general principles by the Assembly.

How did the proposed Measure come about?

In August 2008, the Assembly Commission ('the Commission') set up the Independent Review Panel ('the Panel') to look at all aspects of financial support for Assembly Members. The Panel's report, [Getting it Right for Wales](#) was published and presented to the Commission in July 2009. All of the Panel's recommendations (23 principal and 85 supporting) were accepted by the Commission. A principal recommendation of the Panel's report was that the Commission should prepare and bring forward an Assembly Measure as soon as practicable, to establish a statutory Independent Review Body to make decisions in respect of all aspects of financial support for Assembly Members.

What does this proposed Measure seek to achieve?

The Explanatory Memorandum that accompanies the proposed Measure states:

'The purpose of the proposed Measure is to establish an Independent National Assembly for Wales Remuneration Board to transfer the functions of making determinations to remuneration of Assembly Members, the First Minister, Welsh Ministers, the Counsel General and Deputy Welsh Ministers and for connected purposes. These functions include the setting and reviewing of assembly members' salaries, allowances and pensions. This would remove the responsibility for these functions from the National Assembly for Wales and which are currently conferred on the Assembly Commission.'

It goes on to explain that the aim of the proposed Measure is to establish "an open and transparent process" for determining members' salaries which will "instil public confidence".

What is the committee's role?

The role of Legislation Committee No. 1 is to consider and report on the general principles of the proposed Measure.

How you can help – the consultation questions

Details of the proposed Measure and the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum can be found at:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/ms-ld7745-e.pdf>

<http://www.assemblywales.org/ms-ld7745-em-e.pdf>

In order to inform its work, the Committee would welcome written evidence from interested parties on the proposed Measure. **In particular, it is seeking views on the following:**

- 1. Is there a need for an independent National Assembly for Wales Remuneration Board?**
- 2. Do you think the key provisions within the proposed Measure will help deliver the aim of providing an open and transparent process for determining Assembly Members' salaries which will instil public confidence?**

In considering this question, it would be helpful if you could comment on the following:

- **the functions of the National Assembly for Wales Remuneration Board ('the Board') (section 2);**
 - **persons who are disqualified from membership of the Board (section 3, Schedule 1);**
 - **arrangements for the appointment and termination of Board members (section 4, Schedule 2 and section 5);**
 - **provisions in relation to the exercise of the Boards' functions (sections 10 – 12).**
- 3. What are the practical implications of the proposed Measure, in particular do you think there are any potential barriers to implementing the provisions contained in the proposed Measure?**
 - 4. What are the financial implications of the proposed Measure?**

If you would like to make any other comments on the proposed Measure which are not covered in your response to the above questions, please feel free to do so.

If you wish to submit evidence, please send an electronic copy of your submission to legislationoffice@wales.gsi.gov.uk and entitle the e-mail *Consultation – National Assembly for Wales (Remuneration) Measure*. If you would prefer to send your submission in hard copy, please send it to Claire Griffiths, Deputy Committee Clerk, Legislation Office, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA.

Submissions should arrive by Friday 8 January 2010. It may not be possible to take into account responses received after this date.

Further information on the **legislative process** can be found at:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-legislation/bus-legislation-guidance/bus-legislation-guidance-measures.htm>

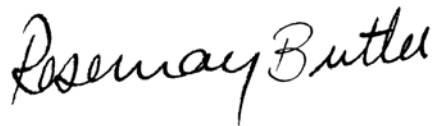
When preparing your submission, please keep the following in mind:

- your response should be concise and address the issues before the Committee. Please reference your response using the title applied above;
- the National Assembly normally makes responses to public consultation available for public scrutiny and they may also be seen and discussed by Assembly Members at Committee meetings. **If you do not want your response or name published, it is important that you clearly specify this in your submission;**
- please indicate whether you are responding on behalf of an organisation, or as an individual; and
- please indicate whether or not you would be prepared to give oral evidence to the Committee.

The Committee welcomes contributions in English and Welsh and will consider responses to the written consultation during the late summer and early autumn terms.

If you have any queries, please contact Liz Wilkinson, Committee Clerk on 029 2089 8025 or Claire Griffiths, Deputy Clerk on 029 2082 1990.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosemary Butler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Rosemary Butler AM
Committee Chair**