

Leighton Andrews AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
Minister for Public Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-650  
Ein cyf/Our ref LA -/00771/15

William Powell AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

25 November 2015

*Dear Bill,*

Thank you for your letter of 16 November regarding a petition to scrap Local Government Councillors' salaries.

As noted in my previous response of August 2015, the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales holds full responsibility for setting the levels of remuneration for Councillors in Wales. At present they have determined that a salary is necessary and should be payable to elected members as recognition of the duties and commitment expected of them.

The salary, which was aligned to the median gross earnings of a full-time employee resident in Wales, offers individuals from all backgrounds and areas of society the opportunity to participate in democracy. Democracy is strengthened when the membership of Local Authorities reflects the demographic make-up of the communities it represents. If no salary was available to elected members, and they were solely reimbursed for expenses incurred, this would have a negative effect on the diversity of Local Authority membership, financially excluding many skilled and willing individuals from being able to represent their communities.

*Yours sincerely  
Leighton Andrews*

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.