Appendix 1

Responses from statutory consultees

Alan Lowry

Chairperson

Independent Remuneration Board

By email: remunerationboard@niassembly.gov.uk

30 September 2026

Dear Mr Lowry

Thank you for your email of 17 September 2026 to the Trustees of the Assembly Members' Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) 2016, enclosing the draft Assembly Members (Salaries) Determination (Northern Ireland) 2027 for consultation.

The Trustees considered the draft Determination at their meeting on 23 September 2026 and confirm that all Trustees have had the opportunity to review it.

The Trustees have no comments to make collectively on the draft Determination. However, individuals reserve the right to submit separate comments should they wish to do so, in their capacity as Members.

The Trustees have no further comments on the draft Assembly Members (Salaries) Determination (Northern Ireland) 2027.

Yours faithfully

Dr Steve Aiken OBE MLA



Chairman of the Trustees
Assembly Members' Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) 2016

**Sinn Féin Submission to the Independent Remuneration Board's Draft Determination on Members' Salaries for 2027**

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## Response

Sinn Féin believes that it is not appropriate for MLA's to be offered a pay raise of more than £2,000 from next May.

This uplift is excessive and comes after a previous 27% increase in pay was issued in April which we were also critical of.

The scale of these uplifts is grotesque given the fact that other workers have not experienced the same wage growth and many are struggling with the cost of living and increased bills.

As we have stated before any uplifts in MLA pay should be benchmarked against uplifts in wider public sector pay.

This would ensure greater equality, fairness and consistency between the pay settlements reached with public sector workers and MLA's

While we respect the independence of the Board we remain opposed to this determination to provide a pay increase from next May, particularly at a time when the Executive itself is pressing for additional money for public services.

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

7 Farmley Road
Newtownabbey
BT36 7TY

Alliance

Alan Lowry
Chair
Independent Remuneration Board

Via email

14 October 2026

Dear Alan

Re: Alliance Party response – draft Determination on MLA pay for the 2027-32 Assembly mandate

I am writing on behalf of the Alliance Party to respond to the consultation on the draft Determination on MLA pay for the 2027-32 Assembly mandate.

Alliance believes that the proposed uplift to MLA pay should not go ahead and urges the Renumeration Board to take any wage increase off the table.

Coming only a matter of months after the Board's last determination on MLA pay; in the context of extreme pressures on public finances; and with ongoing delays in delivering pay uplifts for health staff and other vital public sector workers, there is no coherent argument or justification for any further salary increase for Assembly Members.

MLAs are already more than adequately paid and the mere publication of proposals to further increase those salaries has already been damaging to public faith and confidence in our political system. Alliance, along with every other party in the Assembly, have already made clear our opposition to the uplift and believe there is no basis for the Renumeration Board to continue with this proposal.

We would also reiterate our long-standing position that future MLA pay award, beyond the next Assembly mandate, should be tied to those in the wider public sector and based on strict affordability checks.

Yours sincerely

Paula Bradshaw MLA
Alliance Party Chief Whip

# The Assembly Commission and Clerk/Chief Executive's Office

Room 24
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw Stormont
Belfast BT4 3XX
commission@niassembly.gov.uk

Alan Lowry
Chairperson
Independent Remuneration Board
By email: remunerationboard@niassembly.gov.uk

15 October 2026

Dear Alan

Thank you for your email to the Assembly Commission on 17 September 2026 in which you enclosed a copy of the Independent Remuneration Board draft determination on Members' salaries for the 2027-32 Assembly mandate.

The Assembly Commission has considered your correspondence and has agreed that I should respond in my capacity as Clerk to the Assembly Commission.

The Assembly Commission notes that you are required by the Assembly Members (Independent Financial Review and Standards) Act Northern Ireland 2011 to consult with it on a draft determination.

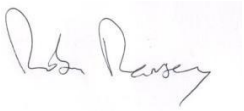
Throughout the passage of the legislation to establish the Board, the Assembly Commission consistently recognised that the independence of the Board was the central principle. The Assembly Commission notes that the requirement for consultation with the Assembly Commission was intended to provide an opportunity to highlight any issues which might affect the Assembly Commission's implementation of the final determination.

The Assembly Commission has taken advice from officials and understands that, notwithstanding the challenging budgetary landscape, from a technical perspective, there are no significant implementation issues arising from the draft determination.

In order to uphold the independence of the Board, the Assembly Commission has agreed that it will not give an opinion on the substance of the draft determination.

The Assembly Commission notes that it is open to the political parties and Members if they wish to respond to you to express views on the contents of the determination.

Yours faithfully



**Robin Ramsey**
**Adviser to the Speaker/ Head of Corporate Support**
**(On behalf of the Assembly Commission)**