



Questions Relating to Relevant Clauses in the Bill

Clause 1

The "Remuneration Board" better reflects the purpose of the body

Select the option which best reflects your view. Listed are Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree or Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree:  
Agree

Enter any comments you have relating to this question:

Although I have agreed the 'Panel' versus the 'Board' is cosmetic.

Clause 2

It is appropriate for the determination of Assembly members' salaries and pensions to be determined by an independent panel/board rather than by the Assembly Commission.

Choose option that best reflects your views. List is Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree or Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree:  
Agree

Enter any comments you have relating to this question:

Allowances paid to members includes Constituency office staff salary costs. If MLAs are to be compared to elected representatives in Scotland, Wales and perhaps Westminster, then surely Constituency office staff salary costs should also be compared to staff providing a service to elected representatives in GB.  
MLAs cannot possibly cope with all that is asked of them on their own. Accordingly staff need to be their eyes, ears, mouth and hands to communicate with constituents, research material, write speeches, press releases and prepare parliamentary questions on their behalf. They too need to be of the right calibre. Appropriate pay proportionality with counterparts in GB will aid the securing of highly qualified staff thereby enhancing the output of MLAs.

It is appropriate for the determination of adequate resources required by Members for the exercise of their functions to be determined by the Assembly Commission rather than by an independent panel/board.

Select the option which best reflects your view. Listed are Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree or Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree:  
Strongly Disagree

Enter any comments you have relating to this question:

Some MLAs do not appreciate that 'allowances' are paid to enable them to offer a quality service and are worried that they may be criticised if they utilise all of their allowances. Accordingly, the Assembly Commission, made up of MLAs, may not have the best interest of their staff at heart in their misplaced quest to keep their allowances as low as possible, with one way of doing so to keep Constituency office staff salary costs as low as possible. If it is to be the Assembly Commission that sets Constituency office staff salary costs, then those same MLAs (now sitting on the Assembly Commission), whose salary increase was secured by comparisons made with others in GB, must utilise similar staff comparisons with the staff of the very elected representatives with whom they were, in turn, compared when setting Constituency office staff salary costs.

### Clause 3

The independent panel/board should have regard to the salaries payable to members of other legislatures when making determinations as to the salaries payable to Members of the Assembly

Choose option that best reflects your views. List is Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree or Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree:  
Agree

Enter any comments you have relating to this question:

I agree that comparisons with the Scottish Parliament, Senedd Cymru (the Welsh Parliament), Dáil Éireann (the House of Representatives of Ireland) and Seanad Éireann (Senate of Ireland).  
The Assembly Commission must, in turn, consider parallels when it is considering Constituency staff salaries. Clause 2 above refers.

The legislatures listed above are the appropriate legislatures to consider when making such determinations

Choose option that best reflects your views. List is Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree or Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree:  
Neither Agree nor Disagree

Enter any comments you have relating to this question:

I agree that comparisons with the Scottish Parliament, Senedd Cymru (the Welsh Parliament), Dáil Éireann (the House of Representatives of Ireland) and Seanad Éireann (Senate of Ireland) are appropriate.

### Clause 4

The temporary filling of vacant positions on the board/panel should be permitted, pending the appointment of replacements.

Choose option that best reflects your views. List is Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree or Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree:  
Strongly Agree

Enter any comments you have relating to this question:

The is wholly appropriate.

### Clause 5

Former Members of the Assembly should be permitted to sit on the panel/board.

Choose option that best reflects your views. List is Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree or Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree:  
Strongly Agree

Enter any comments you have relating to this question:

This is a reasonable amendment, however, the panel/board must have balance and not consist of only former Assembly members.

### Clause 6

It is appropriate for determinations to be made at least 6 months before the date of the poll for the Assembly elections.

Choose option that best reflects your views. List is Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree or Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree:  
Agree

Enter any comments you have relating to this question:

Provision should be made to require determinations to be published in draft and made the subject of consultation.

Choose option that best reflects your views. List is Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree or Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree:  
Agree

Enter any comments you have relating to this question:

Consultation should be undertaken before the Board issues determinations more than once in respect of an Assembly, or otherwise than in accordance with the timing rules set out in subsection (2).

Choose option that best reflects your views. List is Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree or Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree:  
Agree

Enter any comments you have relating to this question:

Additional Comments and Observations

Additional Comments and Observations (including on Clauses 7 to 11)

Enter any additional comments or observations you have on the Bill, including on Clauses 7 to 11.:

Most, if not all, Pay Review Bodies, determine the range of salaries from the senior to the most junior persons in an organisation. Given that MLAs and their Constituency staff are part of the same team, and staff are employees of the MLA (not the Assembly) it would be more reasonable, effective and transparent for the Panel/Board to also determine the whole range of salaries within the MLAs team, thereby removing that responsibility from the Assembly Commission.