

28 May 2014

Mr Richard Stewart
Director of Corporate Services
NI Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Dear *Richard* *15.25/11*

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS WHO ARE ALSO COUNCILLORS

In its March 2012 Determination, the Panel stated that:

"The salary of a Member of the Assembly who is also a councillor will be abated by one half of the councillor basic allowance payable at the time from 1 July 2012 and by the full amount of the councillor basic allowance at the time with effect from 1 April 2013."

The Panel understands that following the publication of the Determination, an arrangement was put in place whereby the basic allowance of councillors who are also MLAs, is abated by the council of which they are a member thus such councillors receive their full Assembly salary but do not receive a basic allowance from the council.

The Panel has considered this arrangement and has decided that for accountability purposes, any MLA who is also a councillor elected to a new Shadow Council in May 2014, should have the full amount of the councillor basic allowance deducted from his/her Assembly salary. This should take effect immediately. Existing arrangements should remain in place for those who did not stand for election to the new councils.

This will have the effect of reducing the salary of these MLAs for pension purposes. They will however be covered by superannuation arrangements as councillors as well as MLAs.

I would be grateful if you would arrange for this procedure to be implemented.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Patrick McCartan.

PATRICK MCCARTAN
Chairperson

Copy to Trevor Reaney, Clerk/Chief Executive