



Head of Finance

Parliament Buildings

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To All Members

28 March 2012

Dear Member

Report of the Independent Financial Review Panel and Determination

The Report and Determination of the Independent Financial Review Panel (the Panel) on Northern Ireland Assembly Members' Salaries, Allowances, Expenses and Pensions were published on 14 March 2012. The Panel was established by the Assembly Members (Independent Financial Review and Standards) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 to make all determinations in relation to the salaries, allowances and pensions payable to Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The purpose of this note is to seek to ensure that all Members are fully aware of any new or additional requirements for the payment of salaries. The salary rates (as established in Schedule 1 of the Determination) are attached at Annex A for ease of reference. The main changes to salaries arising from the Determination fall into two distinct categories namely:

1. Changes to salary rates (including changes arising from dual or triple mandates) and;
2. Changes to the administration of salary payments.

Changes to salary rates

From 1 April 2012, the salary payable to a Member both as a Member and in respect of any office held by the Member will be unchanged. Any salary in payment to a Member in respect of holding office as a Junior Minister, Deputy Chairperson (of a Statutory Committee) or a member of the Assembly Commission will remain in payment at the existing rate provided a Member held one of these offices at 1 April 2012. A revised rate will be payable to any Member who takes up one of these offices after 1 April 2012.

The Panel also set salary rates for the 2013/14 and 2014/15 financial years. From 1 April 2013, the salary for a Member who does not hold any other office will be amended to £48,000 per annum while the salary for Members who also hold another office will be amended in keeping with the Determination. As for the 2012/13 financial year, the salary payable to a Member in respect of holding office as a Junior

Minister, Deputy Chairperson (of a Statutory Committee) or a member of the Assembly Commission and who held one of these offices at 1 April 2012 will be maintained at the level in place at 1 April 2012.


A substantial change arising from the Panel's Determination is the level of salary payable to a Member who has a dual or triple mandate. The current abatement arrangements for a Member who is currently in receipt of a salary as an MP at Westminster will continue. However, from 1 July 2012, the Panel has introduced a new salary rate for a Member who receives a basic allowance as a member of a district council. In these circumstances, the amount payable to a Member will be reduced by half the level of the full basic allowance that is paid to the Member by a district council. From 1 April 2013, the salary payable to a Member will be reduced by entirety of the basic allowance payable to the Member by a district council.

To ensure that the correct salary is paid to all Members, it is essential that **all Members complete Section 1 of the declaration at Annex B to this note and return it to the Finance Office by 30 April 2012.** Any abatement of salary that is applied, as a result of a declaration, will continue until the Finance Office is notified in writing of any change in a Member's circumstances.

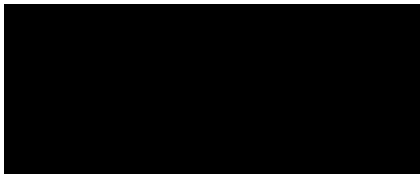
Changes to the administration of salary payments

In addition to the changes mentioned above, the Determination now also requires that the salary payable to a Member shall be paid into an account held by a financial institution in the name of the Member or in the name of a Member and the name of his spouse, civil partner or cohabiting partner.

To this end, it is necessary for each Member to state whether or not the account which has been nominated to receive salary payments complies with this requirement. Section 2 of the declaration at Annex B should be used for this purpose. If the account that you have currently nominated to receive salary payments does not comply with this requirement, new bank account details must be forwarded to the Finance Office. **The Finance Office will be unable to process salary payments to a Member unless a completed declaration (at Section 2 of Annex B) is forwarded. It would be appreciated if the declaration could be forwarded by 30 April 2012.**

If you have any specific queries on the detail of the Report and the implementation of the Determination, please do not hesitate to contact me on 

Yours sincerely



Paula McClintock

Extract from the “Northern Ireland Assembly Members’ Salaries, Allowances,
Expenses and Pensions Determination March 2012”

Schedule 1**Paragraph 6 (1)**

Member	Annual Salary for the year commencing 1 April 2012	Annual Salary for the year commencing 1 April 2013	Annual Salary for the year commencing 1 April 2014
A member holding office as First Minister or deputy First Minister	£114,535	£120,000	£120,000
A member holding office as any other Minister	£80,902	£86,000	£86,000
A member holding office as a junior Minister	£55,101	£60,000	£60,000
A member holding office as a junior Minister and who held that office on 1 April 2012	£62,710	£62,710	£62,710
A member holding office as Speaker	£80,902	£92,000	£92,000
A member holding office as Principal Deputy Speaker or as Deputy Speaker	£51,600	£57,000	£57,000
A member holding office as Member of the Assembly Commission	£49,101	£54,000	£54,000
A member holding office as a Member of the Assembly Commission and who held that office on 1 April 2012	£54,432	£54,432	£54,432
A member holding office as Chairperson of any Statutory Committee or of the Public Accounts Committee	£54,432	£60,000	£60,000
A member holding office as a Deputy Chairperson of a Statutory Committee	£43,101	£48,000	£48,000
A member holding office as a Deputy Chairperson of a Statutory Committee and who held that office on 1 April 2012	£48,768	£48,768	£48,768
Any other member	£43,101	£48,000	£48,000

STRICTLY PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL (WHEN COMPLETED)

NAME (please print):	
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Section 1

Please tick all boxes below that apply:

(a)	I am currently an MP and I receive a MP's salary.	
(b)	I am currently an MP and I do not receive an MP's salary.	
(c)	<p>I am currently a member of a District Council and I receive a basic allowance.</p> <p><i>Please indicate the level of basic allowance that you expect to receive from 1 July 2012</i> <i>£</i> _____</p> <p><i>If this figure changes, please notify the Finance Office immediately in writing.</i></p>	
(d)	I am currently an elected member of a District Council and I do not receive a basic allowance.	
(e)	I am not an MP or a member of a District Council.	

Section 2

The account that I have currently nominated to receive salary payments complies with paragraph 6 (3) of the Northern Ireland Assembly Members' Salaries, Allowances, Expenses and Pensions Determination 2012.	YES / NO* (* delete as appropriate)
<i>If NO, please provide amended details below that comply with the requirements of the Determination.</i>	
Account Name:	
Sort Code:	
Account Number:	
Roll Number (if applicable):	

SIGNED:	
DATE:	

Please return the completed form to:

Payroll Team, Finance Office, Room 401, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX.