

Professor Roger Williams  
*Acting Chairman*  
*Higher Education funding Council for Wales*

1 June 2001

Edwina Hart AM MBE  
Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities  
The National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF CF 99 1NA

Dear Minister,

#### REVIEW OF REMUNERATION OF CHAIRS AND MEMBERS OF PUBLIC BODIES

I write on behalf of the Higher Education funding Council for Wales in response to the invitation to comment on the consultation paper on this subject.

I would make one point, and it is that the proposal to group ASPBs and NHS bodies by bands according to key criteria offers the best way forward. I think it important that the work involved for members in giving their time and energy into a body such as the HEFCW be appropriately rewarded, and on a par with the rate of remuneration for bodies with similar workloads and experience requirements. Might I suggest also, that the introduction of bands for travel time might be considered which, more realistically, take account of the time commitment of members in attending meetings. By way of example, the time commitment of a North Wales based member in a member attending a meeting in Cardiff will be significantly higher than a member who is based in the south, attending the same meeting.

It is perhaps for those who should write the criteria then to consider what the levels of remuneration should be, but I might observe that the current rate for HEFCW members does seem distinctly on the low side compared, as best as I can judge, with some other ASPBs. Particular instances are that the rate of remuneration of members of HEFCW is notably lower than that for their colleagues on the National Council for Education and Training for Wales, and, in both cases, the rates are lower than those for members of the WDA.

I hope these comments are helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Williams