

DYFED-POWYS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
21 FEBRUARY 2017

CHANGES TO PANEL ARRANGEMENTS

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To decide whether to seek approval for the removal of the restriction contained within paragraph 7.3 of the arrangements in relation to members expenses.

Reasons:

The current arrangements restrict members to a maximum number of claims equivalent to 5 full day (i.e over 4 hours duration) meetings per year.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
DYFED – POWYS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
21st FEBRUARY 2017

CHANGES TO PANEL ARRANGEMENTS

Paragraph 12 (3) of Part 3, Schedule 6 to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2010 provides that the Home Secretary must make 'Panel Arrangements' for each Police and Crime Panel.

Paragraph 28 of Part 4, Schedule 6 provides that those Panel Arrangements may include provision for the payment of allowances to Panel members.

At the Shadow Panel meeting on the 11th October 2012 the Panel approved a set of draft arrangements. Those arrangements were subsequently approved by the Home Secretary in November 2012 and have remained in force ever since.

The arrangements currently provide at paragraph 7.3 that members expenses claims be capped at the equivalent of 5 full day meetings (i.e. 5 x £198) per year.

A half day meeting is defined as being of up to 4 hours duration and a full day meeting is defined as being in excess of 4 hours in duration. Travel time and preparation do not count in this regard.

An analysis of members' expenses claims has revealed that if members attend all scheduled meetings during the year, plus the annual finance and demand summit arranged by the Commissioner, there is very little scope left for members to undertake any pro-active scrutiny of the Commissioner's performance.

The Panel therefore may wish to remove the restriction contained within paragraph 7.3 of the panel arrangements. If it decides to do so, the only limit upon the number of meetings that members can claim attendance at will be the requirement that the overall cost of the Panel's activities (including host authority support and translation costs) not exceed the total amount of the available grant from the Home Office.

If the Panel are minded to seek this change to the panel arrangements it will need to be approved by the Home Secretary.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

NO

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Host Authority File	LS-0511/11	County Hall, Carmarthen