

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED RELATING TO MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

1. Mr Swann

From: Malcolm Swann
Sent: 31 January 2013 22:09
To: Peter Dowd
Subject: Saving money.

Hello Mr Dowd, Sefton council are constantly looking for savings, can I suggest that savings can be made with Councillors basic allowance, which I am told is an automatic £8,500. The savings can easily be made if councillors are only paid for their attendance at meetings, and I quote "Just 15 of Sefton's 78 councillors over the past year have been present at all of their council meetings that they were supposed to attend." I can guarantee that there are thousands of people that would be very pleased to receive an automatic £8,500 regardless of how many meetings that they are supposed to attend. I am making this suggestion in response to your requests for ideas of saving money. Kind Regards Malcolm Swann.

This email was referred on by Councillor P. Dowd to the Chair, Canon Driver who in turn discussed it with Paul Fraser, Senior Democratic Services Officer. The following response was sent to Mr. Swann on 7 February 2013:-

"Hi Mr. Swann, I am writing in connection with your email to the Leader of the Council concerning the topic of Members' Allowances and in particular, your suggestion that Members in future receive an allowance for attending meetings (attendance allowance) rather than a Basic Allowance (BA).

I understand that you have had an interim response from the Leaders' Office referring to the role of the Independent Remuneration Panel (the Panel) in establishing the scheme of Members' Allowances in Sefton; and that your suggestion had been passed on to the Chair of the Panel for a response. I am the clerk to the Panel and I have discussed this issue with the Chair, Canon Roger Driver. Canon Driver has asked me to advise you that the Council is restricted in what it can do regarding the implementation of a scheme of attendance allowances due to Regulations approved by the Government in 2003. The Regulations are set out below:

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003 came into effect on 1 May 2003 and introduced, amongst other things, the payment of a BA to all Members of a Local Authority; and stipulated that such BA must be the same amount to all Members of the Authority. In so doing, Local Authorities no longer have the discretion to pay allowances for Members attending meetings.

In the circumstances and unless Regulations change, it would not be possible for the Council to implement a scheme as you suggest.

I would like to thank you however for taking the time to contact the Council with your views on how the Council could make budgetary savings. Furthermore, Canon Driver has asked me to let you know that your views, together with this response, will be

shared with members of the Panel when it next meets in October; and that if you have any further views to submit, then please let me have them and I will also share them with the Panel.

Paul Fraser
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Democratic Services

2. Councillor Jones

From: Terry Jones [terryjones15@sky.com]
Sent: 26 June 2013 16:25
To: Andrea Watts
Subject: Remuneration panel.

Hi Andrea

I would like to make representations to the Council's remuneration panel to put forward a couple of requests.

1/ I believe the council should no longer fund councillor pensions and should be withdrawn at the earliest opportunity. I have requested the full costs from Margaret.

2/ the Carers' allowance should be addressed as its not the tax payers responsibility to pay for councillor child care.

Kind regards

Terry

A report on the issue of Carers' Allowance is on the agenda for this meeting.