

REVIEW OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

Background

Under section 15 of The Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010) the Authority may

- (1) reimburse the expenses of its members incurred in connection with attending a meeting of the Authority or otherwise carrying out the functions of the Authority.
- (2) The Authority may pay to its members such allowances as it may determine.
- (3) In particular, the Authority may pay to a general member who is not an employee of the MMO an allowance in respect of a loss of earnings arising from that member's attendance at a meeting of the Authority.
- (4) The Authority must determine, before the beginning of each financial year, the circumstances in which a member is eligible under this article for the reimbursement of expenses incurred in that year or the receipt of an allowance in respect of that year.

Current situation

Members agreed to pay the Chair of the Authority an annual salary of £4,000.

Members agreed to pay the Vice Chairs and the Chair of the Byelaw Sub- Committee £400 per year, paid quarterly in arrears

General Members can claim up to £100 for each Authority meeting that they attend. The attendance allowance was to reflect that some members would lose earnings as a result of missing a day at work. In addition, General Members can claim any travel costs incurred in order to attend the meetings. Mileage allowance is in line with Devon CC rates.

Additional considerations

Two General Members have enquired whether the payments for attending Authority meetings should be extended to other meetings which they are requested to attend on the Authority's behalf.

Officers recognise that considerable reliance is placed on all Members in order to try to meet the duties of the Authority. Examples of additional meetings that General Members have attended include MPA launch, London, ABP Mer and Defra review of IFCAs meeting and Hinkley power station meetings.

Recommendation

1. The Authority must review the allowances paid to the Chair and Vice-Chairs
2. The Authority must review the expenses paid to its Members and are requested to consider extending the payments to include the additional meetings noted above.