

Cope 23

15/01/10

Dear Sir

The words 'baby' and bathwater' come to mind when considering the proposed ban on MPs employing relatives.

Since 1980 when I became self-employed, my wife has been my secretary/accountant and as a team we work well together. Wives are also apt to 'tell it as it is,' and will not hesitate to criticise.

They also have the advantage of not being 'office wives' with the attendant danger of forming a relationship that can be a little too close.

Just because some MPs have abused a system than allows the employment of relatives (some of whom were alleged to be researchers but in reality did nothing), should not be a reason to debar a working relationship with a wife or other close relative who could make a genuine contribution to an MP's work..

Please reconsider a total ban.

Yours faithfully

Brian Walters

