

19/01/10

Cope 26

Hello,

I have already participated in your consultation process and would like to thank you for that opportunity. I am unaware, however, if the subject of pensions was adequately referred to.

I would like to propose the immediate cessation of the current final salary pension arrangements of each sitting MP. It should accompany your expenses proposals you will introduce in April I believe.

A new average career earning salary pension should be introduced to replace it for all existing MPs and those that join after the 2010 election.

At a stroke it sends a powerful message to the nation that our most prominent public servants are setting a leadership example in keeping costs in check. It has further advantages;

1. Length of service for what is now a possible career and not a vocation will continue to be reflected and rewarded.
2. There will be no pension discrimination between the new intake in 2010 and sitting MPs who are returned to Westminster and nor should there be
3. It is widely accepted that the current MP final salary scheme, crafted by themselves is the finest scheme in the country and sets a very poor example.
4. The private sector has taken the brunt of cuts to final salary schemes. After the 2010 election the public sector, irrespective of which party that wins, will equally clobber the public sector benefits and / or worse jobs
5. What a legacy to launch your recommendations in April.

Your acknowledgement of receipt would be most welcome.

Very best wishes in your endeavours

Forbes and Veronica Cunningham