

COPE 71

IPSA Consultation on the Expenses of MPs.

Members of Parliament should be remunerated at a level that reflects the many and various responsibilities of the role, the time commitment expected, and the many and various skills required of the role. An investigation into the remuneration and terms and conditions relating to professionals within society undertaking similar responsibilities for law and policy making/implementation within the public sector – in the judiciary and Senior Civil Service – might inform the determination of this level of remuneration. I think you will find that the aforementioned professionals are entitled to “first class” travel for a variety of reasons.

People considering standing for Parliament need to be confident that they can afford to undertake the tasks required of the role, to this end MPs require funding for a home near Parliament. In particular, female Members need to know that they can travel home safely late at night on their own. Consequently, the full cost of accommodation near to the Palace of Westminster should be provided.

MPs should be provided with a “budget” or “Allowance” for their staffing requirements to use in the Constituency and or Westminster. The people the MP employs should be of their choosing, including family members, so long as the requirements of the job are being carried out. Staff should be employed by, and be directly accountable to the MP: MPs’ staff need to be independent of “the Establishment”. MPs should also receive funding for the cost of operating an office in both places.

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