

**Received:** 22/10/2020 09:01

**To:** <Enquiry>

**Subject:** FW: Consultation: Periodic Adjustments to MPs' Pay: Response from Richard Graham  
MP Gloucester

In response to your survey on MPs' pay, Richard has asked me to forward you the following:

"For the last several years it has been the responsibility of IPSA to determine the salaries of MPs, having rationalised and sensibly done away with most allowances. I understand you use a measure of comparison with other public sector wages and it is on that basis that you consult now.

My own view is that IPSA decides the rations and I do not get involved.

However on this occasion it is worth noting that:

- a. we are in the middle of a pandemic
- b. many of my constituents are losing their jobs
- c. and so the timing of any proposal to increase the current rations is at the least insensitive

I do not think this is the appropriate time for a salary increase, and while it could be argued that that will always be the case, I would be more comfortable with any proposal to start after the country is no longer in any lockdown and no job is effectively prohibited – whenever that is.

There are times when IPSA has to be sensitive to the unique situation that both we as MPs are in – where trust is a vital ingredient to obeying tiresome guidelines of tiresome laws: and the whole country is in. In the bleak mid winter is not the moment to announce more money for MPs: let us help our constituents through to the other side first.

I hope that is helpful

Yours

Richard Graham "