



Monday, December 7 2020

Dear IPSA

I write in reference to the astonishing consultation on MPs' pay and hope you can include my letter into the general consultation and take on board my views on this matter.

It goes without saying that, like I already do, any increase in pay would be given to good causes and charities, however, I feel strongly that you should take into consider the below matters:

That there is even a consideration that MPs would get a pay increase is a completely appalling notion. Firstly, at a time when so many are struggling and suffering there is absolutely no way MPs should be being considered for an increase – we already get paid more than enough.

Secondly, just the very process and announcement has caused significant anger and upset amongst the general public and certainly many in my constituency, and rightly so.

The impact of this is that at a time when Members and staff are already inundated and struggling to keep up with the volume of work and supporting constituents, your consultation has compounded and made worse an already serious situation.

I believe our staff are at the very least owed an apology by IPSA for this grave error in judgement. I was elected well after the expenses scandal of 2010 and work very hard to be open and accountable, but like many new members we live in the shadow of disastrous mismanagement of allowances prior to our election. Of course staff and Members should be paid fairly and our offices properly resourced, but a pay increase for MPs – or even a consultation about it – is absolutely not what you should be considering at present.

I would respectfully suggest the review is terminated and a public announcement is made to that effect.

I'm sure my anger and dismay is clear from the above but let me underline very clearly that if you were to go ahead with a pay increase both Members and the public will be incredibly angry.

I hope you will carefully consider my views and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Hannah Bardell MP