

DR LUKE EVANS MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Ian Todd
Chief Executive
IPSA
85 The Strand
Charing Cross
London
WC2R 0DW

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

23 November 2020

Dear Mr Todd

Re: MP's Pay

I am writing to regarding the proposed pay rise for MP's that is being considered. I am asking for the implementation to be postponed. I am aware the rest of my letter will seem somewhat ironic, but in a once in a century pandemic, I feel that this message is justified.

I am aware that the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA), the independent body responsible for overseeing Members' pay, pensions and expenses, has put forward proposals for the periodic adjustments to MPs' salaries (as part of its statutory duty to review Members' remuneration in the first year of each Parliament).

I note that the proposals are a continuation of the current arrangements which see Members' pay change in-line with average rises for public sector workers – based on data compiled by the independent Office for National Statistics (ONS). Following a three-year review by IPSA (which concluded in 2015), it was decided that MPs' salaries would be benchmarked against average pay rises for public sector workers and updated on an annual basis.

It is right that Members have no say and no vote in their level of pay and I welcome the fact that it is benchmarked against averages in public sector remuneration. This means that MPs' salaries are reflective of the wider economy and ensures that they are totally independent from political interference.

However, as someone who will benefit from the increment, I am writing to you to postpone this increase given the events that have unfolded since March.

With many people in this country facing the prospect of a reduced income, or worse losing their job or livelihood, I feel that now would not be the correct time for a pay rise. The virus has created extenuating circumstances the likes the world has not experienced, and I believe therefore a justified reason to hold this implementation until the virus is under control.

When we (society) are returning towards some semblance of normality, and sure footing of the economic future in front of us as a country, a review should then take place. What this marker maybe is for IPSA as the independent body to decide.

Finally, as a newly elected MP I realise the irony of me writing to you as the independent body about MP's pay and: on the one hand arguing and supporting IPSA's ability to make independent decisions, then on the other writing to influence IPSA's decision.

Yet...

Member of Parliament for Bosworth

Email: luke.evans.mp@parliament.uk Website: drlukeevans.org.uk

Telephone: Parliament: 0207 219 4250 Mobile: 07920 619812

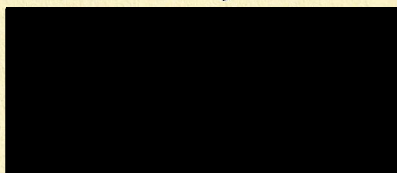
Twitter: @drlukeevans Facebook: [drlukeevansforbosworth](https://www.facebook.com/drlukeevansforbosworth) Instagram: [drlukeevans](https://www.instagram.com/drlukeevans)



The virus pandemic has created unprecedented situations, and as a result I feel the justification to write to you is more than apt.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Yours sincerely



Dr Luke Evans
Member of Parliament for Bosworth