



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Marcial Boo
IPSA
85 The Strand
London
WC2R 0DW

October 14, 2020

Dear Mr Boo

I am writing in response to your consultation on MPs' remuneration, both in my personal capacity as Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire, but also reflecting the views of my constituents who have raised their concerns about the MP remuneration process on this and previous occasions.

I acknowledge that you have a statutory duty to review MPs' salaries by the end of this year and understand that you have undertaken extensive research and consultation to assess how to set MPs' pay, and what mechanisms should be used to deliver annual increases.

As you will know, Covid-19 has had a dramatic impact on the work of an MP – both in how we represent our constituents in Parliament and the challenges of debating and voting while preserving the health of ourselves and our staff. You will also know that all Members have experienced a significant increase in workload this year, and I welcome the extra funds which were made available to help us deal with this challenge, both in terms of home-working equipment and staffing budgets.

Nevertheless, these are challenging times for the whole country. Latest figures from the Office of National Statistics show that more than 1,500 people have lost their jobs in my constituency since March. Many are on furlough, reduced hours or have had to take lower-paying jobs.

I think it would be wrong, in these circumstances, to mirror the public sector. We should receive pay rises in line with overall average earnings of 0%.

Yours sincerely

Harriett Baldwin MP
Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire