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Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear IPSA

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your consultation into the setting of MP salaries. I am the MP for York Central, and was elected in 2015. In response to your consultation paper, I believe that the salaries of MPs must not increase this year, and I would prefer salaries were reduced in line with Average Weekly Earnings and then to follow this benchmark.

According to the Office of National Statistics, the Average Weekly Earnings rate fell to £539 in July 2020. This factored over a year would result in a wage of £28,028. I believe that MPs should be paid at the rate of the AWE, as this would highlight better connectivity with the communities we represent. I therefore propose that IPSA undertake an in depth review of MP wage levels, with a strong view to reducing the wage with the option of the AWE falling into the consultation.

This is especially important in the light that NHS staff and care staff and other public sector workers who have gone to extraordinary measures over the last six months have been denied a salary review and uplift, despite commitments to the contrary. For MPs to then receive either a salary uplift or not to see a reduction in the pay rate would be wrong.

Further, in the light of the exceptional demand being placed on our staff at this time, I would ask that their salaries could be reviewed with regards to the extraordinary commitment that they have shown. I would therefore support a rise in the staffing budget to enable this, and urge IPSA to maintain the principle of an additional allowance to address the Covid-19 pandemic into the next financial year, since the economic challenges facing our constituents will only rise throughout next year, unless we see a stronger economic response to the pandemic.

Further, the consultation asks about the wage of the MP with regards to providing equal access to disabled people. I believe that IPSA should fund all reasonable adjustments and do all it can to support access needs of MPs. This should be separate to the salary of an MP.

Finally, if IPSA should allow MPs the facility not to draw their full wage. I have raised this in the past with IPSA.

Yours sincerely

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