



Dale Heenan <dale.heenan@googlemail.com>

RE: High Court Ruling on the Parliamentary Second Home Allowances

WIERONIEY, Alexis <WIERONIEYA@parliament.uk>

Tue, May 27, 2008 at 3:31 PM

To: Dale Heenan <dale.heenan@googlemail.com>

Dear Councillor Heenan

In response to your email of 23 May: the total I claimed under the Additional Costs Allowance in 2007-08 was made up of receipted claims for £14,797.56 for interest payments on a mortgage and receipted claims for £2,855.90 in payments for utilities [phone, gas, water and electricity]. You will note that in 2006-07 [the last year for which comparative details are available] of the 566 MPs eligible to claim this allowance, only 90 claimed less than I did.

The claims for £9,503.59 in 2007-08 from the Communications Allowance were made up of £8,756.61 for the printing and postage costs of a letter inviting residents to an open meeting to question me. I am enclosing a copy of the standard format for the letter. Further costs of £457.88 were incurred for hosting a website, £191.35 for postage and printing of an opt-in resident update and £97.75 for hall hire for public meetings.

I hope this answers your questions.

Since you raised these questions with me, some constituents have raised other questions with me about politicians' expenses. Firstly, while they have welcomed the transparency for MPs' expenses, they have asked me what councillors spend their expenses on. As these are funded also by the taxpayer and I am sure you will agree that elected councillors should be subject to the same standards of transparency as MPs, I should be grateful if you could let me know, so I can pass this on to my constituents, how much in expenses you received as a councillor in the most recent financial year for which records are kept and what you spent them on.

My constituents also asked three further specific questions about your general attitude towards MPs' expenses to which they want only a 'yes' or 'no' answer:

1. do you expect my successor as the MP for North Swindon, whoever that may be, to claim the Additional Costs Allowance?
2. do you expect my successor as the MP for North Swindon, whoever that may be, to maintain my position in the quartile of MPs claiming least from this allowance?
3. do you expect my successor as the MP for North Swindon, whoever that may be, to claim the Communications Allowance?

Given your interest in these matters, and your public position as a Swindon Borough Councillor, my constituents expect you to have a clear position on these questions and they look forward to hearing it. As you have recognised, I have responded promptly and fully to your questions and I look forward to your responding

with similar speed and detail to my constituents' questions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any of this further.

Yours sincerely

Michael Wills

MP for North Swindon

From: Dale Heenan [mailto:dale.heenan@googlemail.com]

Sent: 23 May 2008 20:13

To: WIERONIEY, Alexis

Subject: Re: High Court Ruling on the Parliamentary Second Home Allowances

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