



Dale Heenan &lt;dale.heenan@googlemail.com&gt;

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## Re: Our Ongoing Exchanges

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Dale Heenan &lt;dale.heenan@googlemail.com&gt;

Thu, Mar 5, 2009 at 6:01 PM

To: "WIERONIEY, Alexis" &lt;WIERONIEYA@parliament.uk&gt;

Thanks as always for your reply,

On the specific points I raised, I am indeed pleased to hear about the situation when it comes to payment of Council Tax. From muddling the figures, your published total claim value for Council Tax does not amount to any specific Council Tax band but does represent a 25% discount for one Band. I thought that it was prudent to ask because I'm sure you wouldn't want erroneous statements or suggestions being made about this issue.

On the Electoral Law, my view differs from yours. Before contacting you I checked the Act. It is very clear that simply owning a second property in an area does not mean someone is eligible to vote in that area. Attached are the specific criteria set out, I draw your attention to section 3. This specifically covers people who hold public office.

I am also quite happy to confirm I will ask questions of any local MP and hold them to account. Expenses are a highly topical issue at the moment, and I have asked questions not just of you but also of Anne Snelgrove. It is worth contrasting your answers with her complete refusal to even reply. This is also the case when residents of South Swindon ask the same questions.

I must also correct you when you say that your expenses are the only thing I have asked you about. For some reason, my questioning of your expenses is clearly something you remember well. I trust that you will not make or infer such a statement again.

Other questions I have asked have included the Government funding of Swindon, and the rebuilding of Schools to name two. Your reply on Swindon Funding was a complete refusal to answer and instead directed me to the Leader of the Council. I also note that despite your role as a Minister, you were unable to answer my questions on the Bank Bailout, and passed it onto I believe, the Chancellor's office. This answer remains outstanding after several weeks.

On your point about working with you to achieve solutions to problems, I am more than happy to do so, but you yourself have failed to contact me about any issue in which you would need assist to affect a positive outcome. One recent example was the Business Summit, where you sent an invitation to the Council Leader and not to me, yet claimed that all Conservative Councillors were invited. I am aware that our exchanges on this topic are posted on your website. I'm sure readers of your website would like be interested in this exchange as well, I know mine would be.

kind regards  
Dale Heenan

On Thu, Mar 5, 2009 at 9:59 AM, WIERONIEY, Alexis <[WIERONIEYA@parliament.uk](mailto:WIERONIEYA@parliament.uk)> wrote:

Dear Councillor Heenan

I have received your latest email about my expenses dated 4 March. The comments you request from me are:

1. you are muddling payments with claims in respect of council tax. I claimed £1116.12 for council tax but paid £2084.88. I did not apply for a discount, nor do these figures imply it as you wrongly suggest. They imply the fact that I claimed less than I paid.

2. you are wrong about electoral law. However as you are a councillor with full access to professional advice about the law from the Electoral Registration Officer, funded by Swindon Borough Council, of which you are an elected member, I prefer not to waste taxpayers' money educating you about something when you are quite capable of educating yourself about it. I hope you will now choose to do so.

Your hopes that 'everything is fine' have therefore been realised and I hope you will be pleased about that.

I agree with your implication that residents need to have full confidence in their elected representatives. I should therefore be grateful if you could reassure me that, as an elected councillor, you will pursue your keen interest in the expenses of the North Swindon Member of Parliament with whoever is the Member of Parliament after the next General Election, including querying all the items of expenditure of theirs that you have queried of mine.

I am sure that you will appreciate that if you cannot give me this explicit reassurance, residents could form the impression that you are incurring the spending of taxpayers' money in answering all these questions solely for the purposes of going on fishing expeditions to see if you can find something you might be able to use for partisan political advantage.

In that respect, I should also be grateful if you could explain why you have given such an overwhelming priority to corresponding with me about my expenses, to the exclusion of issues crucial to the future of the people we both represent. Such issues include the future of Honda and BMW, the proposed closure of the Groundwell park-and-ride and local libraries, a university in Swindon, extended free bus travel for pensioners and the lack of affordable and social housing in Swindon. These are all issues which I know are of great concern to your constituents but about which you have never expressed any interest at all to me nor indicated any willingness to work with me to achieve solutions to problems for the benefit of the people we both represent.

kind regards

Michael Wills

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may use the details you provide to update you on local issues. If you do not wish to be contacted please let him know by writing to: Michael Wills MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA or by responding to this email. Thank you for your cooperation.



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