



Factsheet M5 Members Series

Revised May 2009

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May 2009
FS No. M6 Ed 3.11
ISSN 0144-4689

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Members' pay, pensions and allowances

Members of Parliament have not always been paid. It was only in 1911 that they first received a regular salary, although some form of Payment can be traced back to the 13th Century.

With effect from 1 April 2009, the current salary for an MP is £64,766

This factsheet looks at how Members' salaries have varied over time and how they are determined. It also looks at current Members' pension arrangements and the allowances that they are entitled to.

Details of ministerial salaries are available in **Factsheet M6**.

This factsheet is available on the internet at:
http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_publications_and_archives/factsheets.cfm

Introduction

This Factsheet looks at the rates of pay, pension and allowances for Members of Parliament. Members' salaries are increased annually by an agreed formula that is based on senior civil service pay bands and are subject to review by the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) in the first year of each new Parliament unless a review has taken place within the preceding two years. Members of Parliament also belong to the parliamentary pension scheme, a final salary scheme that was first introduced in 1965. In addition to salary and pension arrangements, Members also receive a number of allowances to enable them to work effectively in Parliament and in their constituencies.

The table below gives information on the current pay level and on the allowance levels from 1 April 2009. The following table summarises the levels of allowances that Members are entitled to:

Summary of current rates with effect from 1 April 2009	
Members' parliamentary salary	£64,766 from 1 April
Allowances	
Staffing Expenditure	Maximum of £103,812
Administrative and Office Expenditure (AOE)	£22,393
Personal Additional Accommodation Expenditure (PAAE)	£24,222
London Costs Allowance	£7,500
Winding-up Expenditure	£42,068
Communications Expenditure	Maximum of £10,400
Motor Mileage allowance	40p per mile (for first 10,000 miles) 25p per mile (after 10,000 miles)
Motorcycle allowance	24p per mile
Bicycle allowance	20p per mile

Members' pay

Current rates

From 1 April 2009 the annual salary for Members of Parliament is £64,766. A full list of salaries since 1911 is given in Appendix A.

On the 3 July 2008¹ the House agreed to a government motion that provided the mechanism for the settling of Member's pay to be independent of the House and the Government, so that in future Members will not vote for their own pay.

Dual mandate Members

Members of Parliament who are also members of devolved parliaments and assemblies are known as dual mandate Members. Before the European Elections of June 2004 Members of the European Parliament could also be dual mandate Members. Since then, MEPs elected to serve at Westminster have to resign their position as an MEP. Dual mandate Members receive a full parliamentary salary but a reduced salary of one-third of the full rate in respect of their membership of the other assembly. The reduced rates are currently:

Northern Ireland Assembly - £10,606
 Scottish Parliament - £17,408
 National Assembly for Wales - £15,397

Two MEPs were elected in the 2005 General Election and they announced their resignations from their posts as MEPs on 11 May 2005. The Labour Party has a general policy of having no dual mandated MPs, although party rules are not quite as inflexible.² Following the 2005 General Election, two Conservative Members had dual mandates: David Davies represented Monmouth in both the House and the National Assembly for Wales; and David Mundell represented the South of Scotland region in the Scottish Parliament until 17 June 2005. Rt Hon Alex Salmond has a dual mandate representing Banff and Buchan Westminster constituency and Gordon constituency as an SMP from May 2007. Sixteen Members from Northern Ireland are also members of the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly³. (The Northern Ireland Assembly was suspended from 14 October 2002 until its recall in May 2007, dual mandate MPs currently receive one-third of 70% of the normal salary of an Assembly member during suspension).⁴

Pay for Select Committee Chairmen

From 1 April 2009 the pay for select committee chairmen is £14,366.

Pay for select committee chairman was first considered in May 2002 when the House approved a motion that the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) should be invited to consider additional pay for chairmen of certain select committees.

The recommendations of the SSRB report⁵ were considered by the House on 30 October 2003⁶ and the House agreed a motion in the name of the Leader of the House that from the beginning of the new session of Parliament in 2003-04, a salary of £12,500 per annum would be paid to the chairmen

¹ HC Deb 3 July 2008 cc1088-1089

² HC Deb 21 October 1999 c658; Labour Party, Rule Book 2004, January 2004, rule 5C.2

³ House of Commons Library Standard Note SN/PC/04101, *Dual Mandate MPs*, <http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/briefings/snpc-04101.pdf>

⁴ There are five Sinn Fein Members whose Northern Ireland Assembly salaries are not abated as they do not receive Westminster salaries.

⁵ Pay for Select Committee Chairmen in the House of Commons, Cm 5673, July 2003

⁶ HC Deb 30 October 2003 c448

of the following committees; those appointed under Standing Order No. 152 (select committees related to government departments), Environmental Audit, European Scrutiny, Public Accounts, Public Administration, Regulatory Reform, Joint Committee on Human Rights and the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments. Payment of the additional salary for Members who were already chairman of a relevant committee also began at the start of the 2003-04 session. For Members appointed at a later date, the salary is payable from the day on which they become chairman of the particular select committee. Payment ends on the day on which a Member ceases to be chairman of a committee. The salary to be increased annually from 1 April 2004 in accordance with the formula used to uprate the annual pay rate for Members of Parliament.

Further information on the pay of chairmen can be found in the House of Commons Library Standard Note (SN/PC/02725) 'Modernisation: Select Committees – pay for chairmen'.⁷

Pay for members of the Chairmen's Panel

On 18 October 2004, the Prime Minister wrote to the SSRB asking whether it was appropriate to give additional pay to the Chairmen of Standing Committees (now known as General committees).

The SSRB's report was laid before the House on 6 July 2005.⁸ The SSRB recommended that pay for standing committee chairmen should be introduced. The House approved this on 13 July 2005. As a result, from 1 November 2005, the Members of the Chairmen's Panel who are not chairmen of select committees have received additional salaries, depending on when they were first appointed to the Chairmen's Panel and the length of time served on the Panel; the salary is payable in four tiers depending on length of services, and is pensionable. The maximum salary available is the same as that for Select Committee Chairmen – i.e. the current pay is £14,366 from 1 April 2009.

Further information can be found in the House of Commons Library Standard Note (SN/PC/03718) 'Public bill and general committees: pay for chairmen'.⁹

History of Members' pay

From the 13th Century

Payment of Members of Parliament can be traced back as far as the 13th century, when the shires and boroughs allowed their representatives certain wages for attending Parliament; knights received four shillings a day, and citizens and burgesses two shillings a day for the duration of the Parliament. These rates were first prescribed in 1322 and remained in force throughout the Middle Ages although there were local variations above and below the set rates. For example, in 1296 the two Aldermen representing the city of London were paid ten shillings a day and, in 1463, the Borough of Weymouth paid its burgesses with a wage of five hundred mackerel. The Bristol Members' wages were adjusted from time to time for inflation: in 1518 they earned 2s 0d a day, in 1567, 3s 4d, in 1571, 4s 0d and in the 17th century, 6s 8d. In addition they were paid travelling expenses. Andrew Marvell (the poet) was reputedly the last person to receive a parliamentary salary – paid by the Borough of Kingston upon Hull until his death in 1678 – but as late as 1681 Thomas King presented a Petition stating the Borough of Harwich had not paid him his wages.

In general, the payment of Members by their own electors had ceased by the end of the 17th century. Samuel Pepys' diary entry for 30 March 1668 remarks:

⁷ <http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/notes/snpc-02725.pdf>

⁸ Review Body on Senior Salaries, Pay for Standing Committee Chairmen in the House of Commons, July 2005, Cm 6566

⁹ <http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/briefings/snpc-03718.pdf>

"At dinner ... all concluded that the bane of the Parliament hath been the leaving off the old custom of the places allowing wages to those that served them in Parliament, by which they chose men that understood their business and would attend it, and they could expect an account from, which now they cannot."

In the 18th and for much of the early 19th century, a seat in the House of Commons could lead to lucrative offices and pensions and many were prepared to pay large sums for a seat.

A salary for Members of Parliament

The system was brought into question in 1780, when a Committee appointed by the Westminster electors, with Charles James Fox as Chairman, recommended the payment of Members. Their Report was adopted by the influential Society for Constitutional Information. A Reform Bill of 1830 and the People's Charter of 1838 also proposed that Members of Parliament should be paid. In the later 19th century payment of Members was taken up by reforming organisations like the National Democratic League and the Metropolitan Radical Federation. It also, in the first decade of the 20th century, became an aim of the Labour Party having been advocated by Keir Hardie as early as 1887.

Motions or Bills supporting such a proposal were brought before the House of Commons in 1870, 1888, 1892, 1893, 1895, and 1903. However MPs remained unpaid until 1911, when, after a vote in the House was passed by 265 votes to 173, they became entitled to draw £400 per annum from public funds. In part, it was Labour pressure which persuaded the Liberal Government to make the change. This pressure was exerted, in particular, after the Osborne Judgement of 1909, which had declared the Trade Union levy to pay for the support of Labour MPs illegal. The then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lloyd George, summarised the arguments in favour:

"When we offer £400 a year as payment of Members of Parliament it is not a recognition of the magnitude of the service, it is not a remuneration, it is not a recompense, it is not even a salary. It is just an allowance, and I think the minimum allowance, to enable men to come here, men who would render incalculable service to the State, and whom it is an incalculable loss to the State not to have here, but who cannot be here because their means do not allow it. It is purely an allowance to enable us to open the door to great and honourable public service to these men, for whom this country will be all the richer, all the greater, and all the stronger for the unknown vicissitudes which it has to face by having there to aid us by their counsel, by their courage, and by their resource".¹⁰

This £400 was increased at irregular intervals (and reduced, in 1931; see Appendix A), but there was no regular machinery for its review. In 1963 the Government appointed an independent committee (the Lawrence Committee) to review payments to members of both Houses and to Ministers. Its recommendations for MPs' pay were accepted by the Government and agreed by the House in 1964. This change increased the basic salary by £1,500 to £3,250.

Members' pay since 1970

In 1970, the Commission for Industry and Manpower Bill provided for a special panel to report on (among other pay groups) parliamentary pay. In the Second Reading debate on 8 April 1970, Barbara Castle, the then Secretary of State for Employment and Productivity said she proposed to ask the panel for a system of automatic reviews at regular intervals, with full reviews every four years. However, these plans were overturned by the loss of the Bill because of a General Election and subsequent change of Government. On 4 December 1970 the incoming Leader of the House,

¹⁰ HC Deb 10 August 1911 c1383

William Whitelaw, announced that MPs' pay would instead be referred to an independent review body, with the final decision resting with the House.

The Top Salaries Review Body (TSRB), appointed in 1971 (originally chaired by Lord Boyle), produced its first major Report on Members' and Ministers' Pay and Pensions in 1971: since then its successors have issued further Reports at fairly regular intervals - (see Appendix 2).

One immediate result of the 1971 report was the introduction of the Resettlement Grant for MPs, recognising the uncertainties attached to the tenure of a parliamentary seat and the need for a bridging arrangement for former MPs while they established themselves in a new career.

The Reports were not always implemented in full. The most obvious example of this came in 1975, when the TSRB recommended an increase in MPs' basic pay from £4,500 to £8,000 a year, and the Government was able to agree to no more than £5,750. Similarly, the 1979 increase, though granted in full, was staged over three years.

It had often been suggested that Members' pay should be linked to a salary in the Civil Service. For example, in 1975 the then Leader of the House, Mr Edward Short, moved a motion "That in the opinion of this House it is desirable in principle that the salaries of Members should be regulated to correspond with the amounts of the salary paid to a specified grade in the public service". This motion was amended by the House (128 votes to 127) to read "That in the opinion of this House, it is desirable in principle that the salaries of Members should be regulated to correspond with a point on the scale paid to an Assistant Secretary in the public service, not later than three months after the next General Election, and annually until that date, the salaries of Members should be increased by not less than the same amount of increase as these Assistant Secretaries".¹¹ In this amended form, it was agreed to by 169 votes to 70, but the Government did not put the Resolution, which was only an expression of opinion, into effect.

The 1975 Top Salaries Review Body Report recommended that MPs' pay should be reviewed at two yearly intervals, but the Government did not agree. In February 1982 the report of an all-party Select Committee on Members' Salaries (HC 208 1981-82) suggested that between four-yearly reviews, MPs' pay be adjusted annually, in line with increases shown for outside earnings. The Leader of the House, Mr John Biffen, rejected this proposal but accepted that MPs' pay should be examined by the Top Salaries Review Body in the fourth year of each Parliament and that the MPs' annual rises would be based on those for non-industrial civil servants, teachers, doctors and dentists. However, increases would not be automatic and Mr Biffen stressed that "in short the Government reserve the right to respond flexibly to exceptional circumstances".

In 1983 the 20th Report of the Top Salaries Review Body recommended that Members' pay should be £19,000 per annum, an increase of about 31%. However, the Government did not accept the recommendations, and instead proposed an increase of 4% in salary from 13 June 1983. The then Leader of the House said:

"The proposed increase represents a value judgement of what is an appropriate salary for a Member. We are all constrained to make a value judgement of what that figure should be. The Top Salaries Review Body Report suggests that it should pay regard to a Member being full time with no other source of income. It must also take account of the unique nature of a Member's occupation. Those factors alone, however, do not indicate a self-evident salary.

¹¹ HC Deb 22 July 1995 c508

We have still to make our own political judgement about an issue sensitive in its economic and social consequences."¹²

However, after a lengthy debate on 19 July the House rejected the Government proposals and instead accepted a compromise of a 5.5% increase immediately (to £15,308), with increases every 12 months over a 5-year period, bringing the Members' salary up to £18,500 in 1987. In addition, MPs decided to link their pay with rates for senior civil servants: from 1 January 1988 their salaries were to be at a yearly rate equal to 89% of the national maximum point (excluding range points as later agreed) of the Grade 6 (old Senior Principal) pay scale in the non-industrial Civil Service. This linkage was confirmed by the House on 21 July 1987, when its operation led to an increase of 21.9%. The House temporarily suspended this linkage on 25 November 1992 by voting to maintain Members' pay for 1993 at the same level as for 1992. It was re-instated on 3 November 1993 with a vote for an increase of 2.7% for the 1994 full Parliamentary salary and 2.68% for the corresponding 1995 salary.¹³ The reform of civil service pay had made the restitution of the exact link impossible.

A new formula for increasing Members' pay was debated and agreed on 3 November 1993; it confirmed that the 1995 salary level should be increased by a "relevant percentage" and that subsequent annual salary levels should be at the rate of the preceding years' salary increased by a "relevant percentage". The "relevant percentage" for any year was the percentage by which the average annual salary of Grades 5 to 7 in the Civil Service increased when compared with the previous year.

In July 1996 the Review Body on Senior Salaries (SSRB, successor to the TSRB) recommended that Member's pay should be £43,000 per annum, an increase of about 26%. The Government proposed an increase of 3%. Following a debate on 10 July 1996, the House rejected the Government proposal and agreed to accept the SSRB recommendation. For the period 1 July 1996 to 31 March 1997 the yearly rate of £43,000 applied. In the same debate the House also agreed to the SSRB's recommended mechanism for the annual uprating of Members' salaries without the need for Parliamentary decision, namely:

"For each year starting with 1st April, from 1997 onwards, the yearly rate shall be increased by the average percentage by which the mid-points of the Senior Civil Service pay bands having effect from 1st April of that year have increased compared with the previous 1st April."¹⁴

Details of changes to Members' pay since 1997 are outlined in a House of Commons Library research paper entitled "Parliamentary pay, allowances and pensions".¹⁵

Members' pensions

Current scheme

Members of Parliament belong to the parliamentary pension scheme. This is a final salary scheme with a current accrual rate of 1/40th or 1/50th. It is a contributory pension with the contribution rate now set at 10% (40th accrual) and 6% (50th accrual) of salary.¹⁶

¹² HC Deb 19 July 1983 c273

¹³ HC Deb 3 November 1993 c482

¹⁴ HC Deb 10 July 1996 c533

¹⁵ <http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/rp2008/rp08-031.pdf>

¹⁶ New Members have the option of electing for the 50th accrual rate within 3 months of being elected

Further information on the Parliamentary pension scheme can be found in the House of Commons Library research paper "Parliamentary pay, allowances and pensions."¹⁷

Background

A pension for MPs was first introduced on 16 October 1964. The Committee on the Remuneration of Ministers and Members of Parliament (the Lawrence Committee, Cmnd 2516) recommended that a pension scheme for MPs should be introduced. This was done by the *Ministerial Salaries and Members' Pensions Act 1965*. The scheme was unusual in that both benefits and contributions were fixed in money terms.

Members' allowances

On 22 January 2009 the House approved the Guide to Members' Allowances (the Green Book), published as Annex 1 to the first report of the Members Estimate Committee¹⁸. The rules set out in the new Green Book came into effect on 1 April 2009. The new allowances are described in brief below.

In 2004 the Speaker of the House of Commons decided, on the advice of the House of Commons Commission, that details of the allowances claimed by individual Members would be made available on the Parliamentary website.

Figures for the allowances claimed by each Member for each year since 2004-05 can be found on the Parliament website.¹⁹

Personal Additional Accommodation Expenditure (PAAE)

This allowance can be used to reimburse Members for any expenses necessarily incurred by staying overnight away from their main residence whilst conducting parliamentary duties. The allowance can be used to meet costs such as rent or mortgage interest, hotel expenses, utilities and telecommunications charges, furnishings, maintenance, service agreements, cleaning and insurance, and subsistence. For 2009/10 Members may claim a maximum of **£24,222**. (including?..) A flat rate sum of **£25** for subsistence may be claimed for any night spent away from the main home whilst on parliamentary business.

The Personal Additional Accommodation Expenditure allowance replaces the Additional Cost Allowance.

Administrative and Office Expenditure (AOE)

The AOE allowance covers facilities, equipment, supplies and services for Members and their staff. For 2009/10, a maximum of **£22,393** may be claimed for costs relating to accommodation for office, surgery or occasional meetings, equipment and supplies for the office or surgery, work commissioned and brought-in services, and certain travel costs not met out of travel expenditure.

The Administrative and Office Expenditure allowance replaces the Incidental Expenses Provision (IEP) allowance.

¹⁷ <http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/rp2008/rp08-031.pdf>

¹⁸ Members Estimate Committee, *Revised Green Book and audit of Members' allowances*, 15 January 2009, HC 142 2008-09

¹⁹ <http://www.parliament.uk/mpslordsandoffices/finances.cfm>

Staffing Expenditure

This allowance is to cover the staffing employed to help Members perform their parliamentary duties. It can be claimed to meet the following costs: staff salaries and employer's National Insurance Contributions, bonuses and overtime payments, payments for brought-in services, additional staff costs, redundancy payments and settlements made at tribunal and court hearings. The maximum staffing expenditure for 2009/10 is **£103,812**.

Travel Expenditure

Members can claim travel allowances in relation to their parliamentary duties. In addition, staff, spouses and civil partners, and children up to the age of 18 are entitled to certain travel allowances. Travel expenditure may cover fares for journeys by public transport, mileage for cars, motorbikes and bicycles, parking and taxis and private hire car costs.

The rates remain the same as in recent years: motor mileage – **40 pence per mile for the first 10,000 miles and 25 pence per mile thereafter**; motorcycle – **24 pence per mile**; and bicycle – **20 pence per mile**.

Communications Expenditure

The Communications Expenditure has been frozen at the 2008/09 level, with the maximum allowance of **£10,400**. Communications Expenditure is to enable Members to communicate proactively with their constituents in relation to their parliamentary duties. The allowance may be used for regular reports, constituency newsletters, questionnaires, surveys and petitions; contact cards; distribution costs; advertising constituency meetings and surgeries; websites and some capital purchases.

The Communications allowance was first approved on Wednesday 28th March 2007 and came into effect on 1st April 2007.

London Costs Allowance

The London Cost Allowance replaces the London Supplement as agreed on the 3 July 2008. For 2009/10 the allowance has been set at **£7,500**. It may be claimed by any Member, including Members who do not represent London constituencies, providing they do not claim Personal Additional Accommodation Expenditure. The London Costs Allowance is payable with the monthly salary, it is subject to tax and National Insurance, and is not pensionable.

Resettlement Grant

The resettlement Grant may be claimed to help former MPs with the costs of adjusting to non-parliamentary life. It is payable to any Member who ceases to be an MP at a General Election. The amount is based on age and length of service, and varies between 50% and 100% of the annual salary payable to a Member of Parliament at the time of the Dissolution.

Winding-Up Allowance and Resettlement Grant

An allowance of up to one third of the annual Office Costs Allowance was paid for the reimbursement of the cost of any work on Parliamentary business undertaken on behalf of a deceased, defeated or retiring Member after the date of cessation of Membership. On 5 July 2001 the House agreed to change the allowance to one third of the sum of the staffing provision and Incidental Expenses Allowance in force at the time of cessation of Membership.

General Services Budget

Central funding by way of a General Services Budget was introduced as part of the changes in 2001.

It provides for relevant training of Members and their staff, appropriate insurance provision, exceptional expenses incurred by Members who have constituencies with particular problems and reasonable adjustments to working conditions and equipment of Members with particular needs. Before 2001, Members with specific disabilities received additional allowances expressed in multiples of the OCA. Additional provision was made by a resolution of the House. Examples are given below:

On 16 December 1987 the House decided to increase the allowance given to Rt Hon David Blunkett MP by 50% of the basic allowance, to take into account the increased difficulties he faces in being a visually impaired Member. This was increased to 2.57 times the basic amount on 14 July 1988, a figure which was subsequently renewed on 14 July 1992, on 13 July 1994, and again on 10 July 1996.

On 26 November 1998 the House decided to increase the allowance given to Miss Anne Begg MP to 1.55 times the basic amount of both the Office Costs Allowance and the Additional Costs Allowance. Previously, on 20 March 1998, the House had decided to increase the allowance paid to Miss Begg to 1.33 times the basic amount for both the Office Costs Allowance and the Additional Costs Allowance. The House also agreed on this date that the limit on Members' staff travel for Miss Begg should be 34 return journeys in the 12 months beginning 1 January 1998.

The 2001 SSRB report recommended that the House find an alternative means of providing additional help for members with disabilities in order to protect individual Members' privacy. The resolution agreed by the House on 5 July 2001 incorporated such allowances into the new General Services Budget:

Members with disabilities

(9) When provision is made in respect of any Members in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (4) (d) of this Resolution, any Resolution of this House entitling that Member to claim a multiple of the Office Costs Allowance shall cease to have effect.

And

General Services Budget

(4) ...

(d) reasonable adjustments to the working conditions and equipment of Members with particular needs because of disability, and for necessary additional continuing costs.

Appendix A: Member's Pay since 1911 (a)

Date	Salary	Date	Salary
August 1911	400	1 April 2006	59,686
October 1931	360	1 Nov 2006	60,277
July 1934	380	1 Apr 2007	61,181 ²⁰
July 1935	400	1 Nov 2007	61,820 ²⁷
June 1937	600	1 Apr 2008	63,291
April 1946	1 000	1 Apr 2009	64,766
May 1954 (b)	1,250		
July 1957	1,750		
October 1964	3,250		
January 1972	4,500		
June 1975	5,750		
June 1976	6,062		
June 1977	6,270		
June 1978	6,897		
June 1979	9,450		
June 1980	11,750		
June 1981	13,950		
June 1982	14,510		
June 1983	15,308		
1 Jan 1984	16,106		
1 Jan 1985	16,904		
1 Jan 1986	17,702		
1 Jan 1987	18,500		
1 Jan 1988	22,548		
1 Jan 1989	24,107		
1 Jan 1990	26,701		
1 Jan 1991	28,970		
1 Jan 1992	30,854		
1 Jan 1993	30,854		
1 Jan 1994	31,687		
1 Jan 1995	33,189		
1 Jan 1996	34,085		
1 July 1996	43,000		
1 April 1997	43,860		
1 April 1998	45,066		
1 April 1999	47,008		
1 April 2000	48,371		
1 April 2001	49,822		
20 June 2001	51,822		
1 April 2002	55,118		
1 April 2003	56,358		
1 April 2004	57,485		
1 April 2005	59,095		

- (a) Staged increases are not shown in this table.
- (b) Including sessional allowance. From May 1954 to July 1957 an allowance of £2 for each day the House sat (except Fridays) was paid to Members. The figure here is based on the average number of sitting days in that period

²⁰ The annual salary was increased from £60,675 to £61,181 with effect from 1 April 2007, and to £61,820 with effect from 1 Nov 2007 on 24 January 2008.

Appendix B:

Staffing Allowance since its introduction in June 2001

Date	Minimum	Maximum
Jun 2001	60,000	70,000
Apr 2002	61,980	72,310
Apr 2003	64,304	74,985
Apr 2004	66,458	77,534
Apr 2005		84,081
Apr 2006		87,276
Apr 2007		90,505
Apr 2008		£90,854
Apr 2009 (a)		£103,812

Maximum Office Cost Allowance since its introduction in October 1969

Oct 1969	500	Apr 1988	22,588
Jan 1972	1,000	Apr 1989	24,903
Aug 1974	1,750	Apr 1990	27,166
Jun 1975	3,200	Apr 1991	28,986
Jun 1976	3,512	Apr 1992	39,960
Jun 1977	3,687	Apr 1993	40,380
Jun 1978	4,200	Apr 1994	41,308
Jun 1979	4,600	Apr 1995	42,754
Feb 1980	6,750	Apr 1996 (c)	43,908
Aug 1980	8,000	Apr 1996 (d)	46,364
Jun 1981	8,480	Apr 1997	47,568
Jun 1982	8,820	Apr 1998	49,232
Jul 1983	11,364	Apr 1999	50,264
Apr 1984 (b)	12,437	Apr 2000	51,572
Apr 1985	13,211	Apr 2001	52,760
Apr 1986	20,140	Jun 2001	52,760
Apr 1987	21,302	Apr 2002 (e)	53,446

(a) From 1 April 2009, known as Staffing Expenditure.

(b) On 20 July 1984 the House decided by resolution that the allowance be uprated from 1 April each year by the increase in the maximum point of the pay scale (excluding allowances and overtime) for a senior personal secretary in the Civil Service in receipt of Inner London weighting. However, on 16 July 1986 the House rejected the Government recommendation of a 6% increase in Secretarial/Research Allowances, and instead voted for an amendment which raised the base figure for allowances in 1986-87 by over 40%. On 21 July 1987 the allowance became known as the Office Costs Allowance. The allowance was revised from 1 April each year. On 25 July 1991, the Leader of the House, Rt Hon John MacGregor, asked the Top Salaries Review Body to undertake a review of the whole subject of the Office Costs Allowances. The TSRB reported in July 1992, following which the Government recommended an increase in the OCA of just over £4,000, to be assessed on a quarterly basis in the future. On 14 July 1992 the House rejected this and voted instead in favour of an increase of 38%, also to be assessed quarterly. On 13 July 1994, the House voted for a 2.3% increase in the allowance limit effective from 1 April 1994.

(c) As first paid

(d) Increased following a resolution

(e) Office Cost Allowance was abolished in April 2003. Members who served in the previous Parliament could opt to retain their OCA entitlement until then or transfer to the Staffing Allowance as set out above.

Appendix C

Top Salaries Review Body Reports dealing with Parliamentary remuneration

1971	1 st Report	Cmnd 4836
1972	2 nd Report	Cmnd 5001
1974	5 th Report	Cmnd 5701
1975	7 th Report	Cmnd 6136
1976	8 th Report	Cmnd 6574
1977	9 th Report	Cmnd 6749
1979	12 th Report	Cmnd 7598
1980	13 th Report	Cmnd 7825
1980	15 th Report	Cmnd 7953
1981	17 th Report	Cmnd 8244
1983	20 th Report	Cmnd 8881
1985	22 nd Report	Cmnd 9525
1987	24 th Report	Cm 131
1988	26 th Report	Cm 362
1991	31 st Report	Cm 1576
1992	32 nd Report	Cm 1943
2001	47 th Report	Cm 4996
2001	55 th Report	Cm 5673
2004	57 th Report	Cm 6354
2005	60 th Report	Cm 6566
2008	64 th Report	Cm 7270-1

Review Body on Senior Salaries

1996	38 th Report	Cm 3330
1997	39 th Report	Cm 3540
1998	40 th Report	Cm 3837
1999	41 st Report	Cm 4245
2000	45 th Report	Cm 4567
2001	47 th Report	Cm 4996
2001	48 th Report	Cm 4997
2002	51 st Report	Cm 5389
2003	54 th Report	Cm 5718
2004	56 th Report	Cm 6099
2005	59 th Report	Cm 6451
2006	62 nd Report	Cm 6727
2007	63 rd Report	Cm 7030

Further reading

House of Commons
The Green Book: A guide to Members' Allowances
2009

Peter Alfred Taylor MP
Payment of Members
1870

Sydney Baxton MP
Political Questions of the Day
1892
(contains a résumé of then current arguments for and against payment of MPs)

Report of the Committee on the Remuneration of
Ministers and Members of Parliament
Chairman: Sir G Lawrence
1964
Cmnd 2516

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Factsheet M5 Members' pay, pensions and allowances

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