

YouGov Survey Results

MPs Expenses

Prepared for Mail On Sunday

Sample Size: 1543

Fieldwork: 22-33 October 2004

%

Turning to another subject, MPs here in Britain are allowed to claim expenses, for such things as maintaining offices and employing staff in Westminster and their constituency, for traveling between Westminster and their constituency and, if their constituency is outside London, for maintaining a home near Westminster. On average, MPs claim nearly £120,000 a year in expenses. Do think...

MPs are allowed to claim too much	82%
MPs should be allowed to claim more, e.g. to employ more staff	2%
The figure is about right	12%
Don't know	5%

MPs from outside central London are allowed to claim up to £20,000 a year to pay a mortgage on a second home. Should Members of Parliament with seats within commuting distance of London – say, one hour's journey - be allowed to continue claiming this money or not?

Should be allowed to continue claiming	7%
Should not be allowed to continue claiming	90%
Don't know	3%

Several senior figures including Tony Blair and Commons speaker Michael Martin have been allowed to claim up to £20,000 in Commons expenses to fund mortgages on their constituency homes - even though they already receive free 'grace and favour' homes in Westminster. Should they be allowed to continue claiming this money or not?

Should be allowed to continue claiming	10%
Should not be allowed to continue claiming	87%
Don't know	3%

Tony Blair has claimed £43,000 over the past three years for his constituency home in Sedgefield. Should he be allowed to continue claiming this money or not?

Should be allowed to continue claiming	14%
Should not be allowed to continue claiming	82%
Don't know	4%

Many MPs use part of their expenses to employ their spouses or other relatives as secretaries and researchers. Do you think this practice should be allowed to continue, or should it be stopped?

Should be allowed to continue	7%
Should be allowed to continue – but MPs should be required to prove that the relatives do genuine work	59%
Should be stopped	31%
Don't know	3%

Peers receive no salary, but are paid a daily allowance on those days they attend the House of Lords. An independent body has recommended that this should rise from a maximum of £245.50 a day to a maximum of £290 a day when the House of Lords is sitting. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

Support	17%
Oppose	68%
Don't know	15%

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

'My local MP provides a good service to people in my area'

Agree	30%
Disagree	38%
Don't know	32%

"MPs generally are out of touch with the needs and concerns of ordinary people"

Agree	66%
Disagree	21%
Don't know	12%

If elected, the Conservatives would cut the total number of MPs in the Commons by 100 to around 550. This would save the taxpayer tens of millions of pounds a year. It would also mean that each MP would have to represent more people in a larger area. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

Support	58%
Oppose	23%
Don't know	19%