

**Name** Tobias Ellwood MP  
**Date of submission** 3 June 2015  
**Subject** Statutory review of MPs' pay

## Response

Dear Sir Ian,

I know I speak for the silent majority (who are not millionaires) to say this increase is well overdue.

I never expected to be watching the pennies at my age and yet this is what I now have to do.

I was in the Armed forces where, had I stayed in, I would be earning far more than I am now. See the salary bands in this simple chart here:

[http://www.armedforces.co.uk/armypayscales.php#.VW9crk\\_wtaQ](http://www.armedforces.co.uk/armypayscales.php#.VW9crk_wtaQ)

As the chart shows, even WITHOUT promotion, a Colonel's pay (not a particularly high rank, earns £69k and will automatically go UP by about £1k each year. As seniority as a colonel is recognised.

Those who are vocal about turning down the MPs' increase have all acquired considerable wealth and can afford it. Without a competitive salary you will fill this place with rich people and not those such as me who have taken a salary cut to serve here.

In addition, as an MP, I have no hospitality budget so when, for example, the Mayor of Bournemouth comes up for an annual lunch at the House of Commons, the bill comes out of my own pocket. I exhaust my car travel mileage, as I return to Bournemouth most weekends and my wife exhausts her rail travel allowance for the same reason. So we have to pay all this extra ourselves.

With record employment, GDP growth at ~3%, the argument that now is not the right time to rectify salaries begs the question: whenever is a good time?

I hope common sense will prevail and this pay rise will be honoured.

Yours

Tobias Ellwood.