

31<sup>st</sup> January 2005

*Dear Mr Brown*

You have requested information relating to MPs' staff names and salaries.

The Members Estimate Committee of the House of Commons has given careful consideration to the extent to which information which relates to expenses and allowances (including staffing allowance) claimed by Members of Parliament can properly be disclosed having regard to the data protection principles, in particular the duty to process personal data fairly, and to the legitimate interests of third parties. All the information considered is personal to the Members of Parliament concerned, as well as to any family members or members of staff to whom it may also relate. The Committee concluded that such information could properly be disclosed to the extent provided in paragraph 7.4.8 of its publication scheme (on page 25 of the fourth edition of that scheme dated December 2004). This information has been available on the Parliamentary website since October 2004.

Having carefully considered your request, I have concluded that the disclosure of information additional to that in the publication scheme would not be consistent with the data protection principles and is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('personal information').

If you are not satisfied with this answer, you can seek an internal review. You should contact the House of Commons Freedom of Information Officer (020 7219 1178 or [foicommons@parliament.uk](mailto:foicommons@parliament.uk)) if you wish to do so. Internal reviews will usually be completed within twenty days. Further, section 50 of the Act confers a right to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the Act has been properly applied, although the Commissioner may require the internal complaints procedure I have described to be pursued first.

*Yours sincerely*



**A J Walker**  
Director of Finance and Administration

