

Dear

Pay for MPs, civil servants and other public sector workers

As I am sure you are aware, it was recently announced that MPs are to receive a 2.7% pay increase on 1 April 2019. Their staff will receive 1.5%.

It is extremely welcome that a large number of MPs from all parties have criticised this discrepancy and called for a higher rise for staff, rightly arguing that 1.5% would amount to a real-terms pay cut and would be unfair to hardworking staff.

I am writing to bring to your attention that MPs' staff are not the only group who have had their pay capped at 1.5%.

Tens of thousands of civil servants are in the same position. Pay increases for the civil service and other public sector workers covered by the Treasury's pay remit guidance were capped at 1-1.5% last year (staff do not receive separate progression increases).

I hope you share our concerns, and the concerns of the thousands of civil servants represented by Prospect, that this is inconsistent and risks the appearance of double standards being applied. Will you show your support for civil servants as well by signing Early Day Motion 2143, which is printed below?

I want to stress that Prospect has not criticised the 2.7% awarded to MPs as a result of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's deliberations and conclusions.

But we are deeply unhappy that the process applied to determine MPs' pay has been denied to our members in the civil service and more broadly in the public sector.

Our members do invaluable work and there has not been a government in peace time so reliant on their hard work and commitment. But their salaries have fallen by more than 15% in real terms since 2010 (as shown in the attached [briefing](#)).

Many MPs will be surprised at how harshly the civil service has been treated in terms of pay in recent years – it has become the poor relation to the private sector and the wider public sector. This is not fair or sustainable.

We are therefore seeking your support in:

- pressing for a pay review body for those civil servants and other public sector workers currently covered by the government's pay remit guidance
- agreeing that any pay review body recommendations should be implemented in full, as happened with MPs
- demanding that the government lifts the current 1.5% cap immediately.

Prospect is not affiliated to any political party – we work closely with MPs across the House on a range of issues.

We believe the UK's political reputation and its ability to deliver key public services and support the government of the day will be damaged if action is not taken.

The desire to ensure that our public servants are fairly paid should not be a political football and should concern all in the House of Commons.

That is why we are asking MPs from all the political parties to raise this issue with Minister for the Cabinet Office and show their support for our campaign for a fair deal for public sector workers by signing Early Day Motion 2143, tabled by Daniel Zeichner MP which states:

That this House believes that civil servants perform an essential role in the functioning of British democracy and the delivery of our public services especially as the UK renegotiates our relationship with the European Union; notes that public servants covered by the Cabinet Office and Treasury's civil service pay guidance received the lowest percentage pay rises across the public sector in 2018/19 at a range of 1 to 1.5%; notes that Members of Parliament will receive a 2.7% pay rise in April 2019 as recommended by an independent pay review body; urges the government to lift the 1.5% pay cap for civil servants and other public sector workers covered by the guidance in the forthcoming pay remit guidance and to introduce an independent pay review body for civil servants whose recommendations would be implemented in full.