

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I thought it may be helpful to put together some answers to questions people may have. You may want to read through these before or after reading the documents.

### Where can you find details of my expenses?

At [http://www.theyworkforyou.com/mp/madeleine\\_moon/bridgend](http://www.theyworkforyou.com/mp/madeleine_moon/bridgend)

The details given below are from that site as a record of my spending each year I have been an MP.

Type	2007/08 (ranking out of 645)	2006/07 (ranking out of 645)	2005/06	2004/05	2003/04	2002/03	2001/02
Additional Costs Allowance	£22,902 (218th)	£22,110 (joint 1st)	£21,634				
London Supplement	£0	£0	£0				
Incidental Expenses Provision	£18,994 (295th)	£21,104 (230th)	£27,348				
Staffing Allowance	£93,206 (96th)	£81,902 (404th)	£76,580				
Communications Allowance	£10,287 (109th)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Members' Travel	£9,673 (234th)*	£8,338 (296th)**	£8,445				
Members' Staff Travel	£1,685 (38th)	£1,120 (108th)	£498				
Members' Spouse Travel	£867 (138th)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Members' Family Travel	£0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Centrally Purchased Stationery	£910 (joint 256th)	£1,483 (164th)	£1,928				
Stationery: Associated Postage Costs	£2,182 (349th)	£4,530 (157th)	£6,547	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Centrally Provided Computer Equipment	£1,023 (joint 560th)	£930 (joint 523rd)	£930				
Other Costs	£0	£0	£1,233				
<b>Total</b>	<b>£161,729 (78th)</b>	<b>£141,517 (251st)</b>	<b>£145,143</b>				

\* Regular journeys between home/constituency/Westminster: Mileage £1,749 (419th). Rail £7,586 (95th). Misc £43 (206th). Other: Mileage £122 (43rd). Rail £173 (89th).

\*\* Car £2,078 (416th). Rail £6,260 (123rd).

### Why are some of the information redacted, (blacked out)?

All MP's expenses are published in this way to protect bank details, people's identities and VAT numbers etc. This is to comply with the Data Protection Act.

### **Where did you live when you first became an MP?**

Initially I rented a room in London, and then spent two hectic days looking for a flat in London near to the Commons so that I could get there quickly in the morning and not be too far to travel late at night when the sittings ended.

### **Why do you need a flat in London?**

The House of Commons sits four to five days a week. On Monday and Tuesday it sits late with votes between 10 and 11 pm most weeks. One day in May it sat till 1.45 am. It is impossible for me to travel home to Wales each evening. The House sits on Wednesday and Thursday from 10.30 am. I need to be able to access the Commons early in the morning on those days to prepare for meetings, Select Committees and Public Bill Committees which often commence at 9 or 9.30 am. I need to live close to the Commons so that I am not walking or travelling alone in London late at night.

### **What is your flat like?**

The flat is in South London and is very basic. I climb three floors and my bedroom window looks out onto a brick wall and my front window looks directly into the flat opposite. I have no garden, no luxury accommodation or facilities.

### **Why did you buy your furniture in Wales?**

I was elected in 2005. I spent the first three months in Westminster; finding my way around the Commons and getting on top of my new responsibilities.

In August and September 2005 I was back in the Constituency setting up my new office and preparing to move into my London flat in October. I bought items in shops in Cardiff, Bridgend and Swansea because that is where I know where to shop. Like other working women I shop at weekends and during recess and that is when I am home in Wales. I saw this as bringing money into the local economy.

I have moved house several times in my life. On every occasion I have moved everything in one go into the house. That's what I wanted to do this time.

If I had bought the same goods in London, probably at higher prices, would there have been the same questions asked?

### **How did you transport the furniture to London?**

I hired a local haulage firm to take the items I had bought along with furniture from my home and items I bought in a local house clearance to London. You can see my receipt in the files.

### **What have you bought in London for your flat?**

Since 2005 I have bought two items in London; a set of duvet covers and an electric fan heater. During the working week I have no time to go shopping in London?

### **When did you decide to publish details of your receipts?**

Before the Telegraph contacted me I agreed with the Bridgend and Porthcawl Gem to show them all my receipts and answer all their questions. I invited the local reporter into my home in Porthcawl and showed him photographs of my flat in London. You can see attached the article the reporter wrote after seeing the details published here on my website. I also offered the reporter the opportunity to look at all of the paper copies of my receipts and claim forms.

### **Why are there pages missing in the numbered pages?**

When you read the accounts you will see the pages are numbered. Some pages are missing. These are pages removed by the Commons Fees Office. Sometimes they were the rear of receipts, showed hand writing which could be open to forgery or contained bank details.

### **Do you employ any relatives?**

No

### **Does anyone else live in your flat with you?**

No

### **Have you ever changed the address of your London flat to that of your home in Porthcawl?**

No

### **There appears to be a Body Shop receipt for £10. What is this?**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> December there is a BT bill and two receipts that look like they are for dry cleaning and the Body Shop. This is a taxi receipt. Many taxi receipts contain adverts.

## **Incidental Expenses frequently asked questions**

### **Why are you making a payment to Hair fashions?**

Hair fashions is the name of the landlord for the Bridgend Constituency office. The payment is for one months rent the Fees office failed to pay.

### **What is hidden by the redactions and deleted pages?**

I have little control over information which is redacted. The information covered by the redaction is the name of any individual, bank account or payment details such as VAT numbers. The rear of bills such as phone and bills have been copied then left blank when they contain information relating to numbers dialled etc.

### **Why do you have three telephone bills?**

I have a fax line, security line and telephone line (which has filters on it for broadband to run the computers). This is standard office practice.

### **Why Bills for T Mobile and Orange Mobiles?**

I originally had an orange mobile then changed to T Mobile for one month both phones were in use so that the account could be moved. I carry two phones. One is expensive to use for calls and text but is vital as it accesses the Parliamentary email and diary. I have no option but to use this system designated by the House as secure. I also have a T Mobile hand set which is on a cheap call tariff. Both phones are now on T mobile.

### **Why buy stamps and have free post?**

Freepost is for people replying to questionnaires that I send out to reply without incurring a payment. It is not for use to send letters out. Stamps are purchased to pay for letters sent out to gather or share information. The franked Parliamentary envelopes are used to reply to people who write to me seeking information.

### **Taxi fares**

Taxi's are claimed for between Paddington and the House of Commons.

### **Cameras**

I work in London and Bridgend. There is a camera in each office. I also carry a very light camera with me when away from the office. These provide the photographs in the newsletters and reports. The DVD camera was used to record interviews with Ministers for the website.

## **Computers**

I have three computers in the Bridgend office, when they were purchased I had three staff in Bridgend. I now have two staff there. The third computer is used by interns, work experience students and myself. I also have a laptop which I use on the train.