

Labour's Policies on MEPs' Expenses

Past

Labour MEPs have introduced measures that go beyond European Parliament requirements to ensure that their own expenditure is correct. Labour MEPs have for nine years voluntarily sent their accounts to be independently audited.

Notably a requirement that each and every Labour MEP has their expenditure reviewed annually by an independent accountant to certify that all expenditure is within the European Parliament rules, applicable law and the additional guidance laid down by the European Parliamentary Labour Party (EPLP).

Present

The EPLP publish the auditors' certificates online to demonstrate that the accounts are in order.

MEPs do not receive an Additional Costs Allowance as in the Westminster Parliament, but a daily allowance and travel reimbursement when working in Brussels or Strasbourg, they do not receive receipts for these allowances.

Future- from June 2009

Labour MEPs regularly review their regulations in light of discussions in Westminster and in the European Parliament and from June new rules and regulations will come into force so that:

- All costs relating to MEPs' staff will be managed directly by the European Parliament or, in the case of staff based outside Brussels, by agents employed by them.
- Travel will be reimbursed by the European Parliament on the basis of actual costs incurred.

All Labour MEPs elected in the new Parliament are committed to publishing every six months a breakdown of their expenditure received under their European Parliament office allowance **including all receipts**, and to publishing their auditors' certificate on the EPLP's and individual websites.

Labour MEPs will publish the amount received for costs reimbursed for travel, and the number of days claimed and the amounts received in relation to their Daily Allowance.

NOTE: retrospective accounts and receipts have not been collated by an equivalent body as the Westminster Fees office in the European Parliament, however the Labour MEP audit certificates from the last 9 years have been published on the EPLP website.

Summary

"Labour MEPs have voluntarily submitted their expenditure for audit process to an independent accountant for the last 9 years to ensure all office and salaries expenditure is correct. This practice that has been belatedly followed by some of the other parties. UKIP still do not audit their accounts.

All Labour MEPs in the new European Parliament will publish details

online, including receipts of office costs and a breakdown of their daily allowance and travel costs."

In 2000 Labour MEPs introduced their own measures in the absence of European Parliament requirements to ensure that their own expenditure is correct. Labour MEPs have for nine years voluntarily sent their accounts to be independently audited.

This requires that every Labour MEP has their expenditure reviewed each year by an independent accountant to certify that all expenditure is within the European Parliament rules, applicable law and the additional guidance laid down by the EPLP.

The EPLP publishes each of the auditors' certificates on its website to demonstrate that the accounts are in order.

MEPs do not receive an Additional Costs Allowance as in the Westminster Parliament, but a daily allowance and travel reimbursement when working in Brussels or Strasbourg.

Labour MEPs regularly review their regulations in order to meet the highest standards of probity. From July, new rules and regulations will come into force in the European Parliament, so that:

- All costs relating to MEPs' staff will be managed directly by the European Parliament or, in the case of staff based outside Brussels, by agents approved by them.
- Travel will be reimbursed by the European Parliament on the basis of real costs incurred.

All Labour MEPs elected in the new Parliament will:

- 1 Publish every six months on the EPLP's and individual websites:
 - a breakdown of their expenditure received under their European Parliament office allowance
 - all receipts pertaining to this expenditure
 - the number of days claimed and the amounts received in relation to their Daily Allowance
 - amounts received for costs of travel
- 2 Continuing to have their expenditure reviewed each year by an independent accountant and publishing their auditors' certificate on their individual websites and the EPLP's website
- 3 Continue to campaigning for further reform for all MEPs expenses in the European Parliament to bring them up to Labour's standards.

Glenis Willmott MEP, and Labour's Leader in the European Parliament said:

"Labour MEPs have led the way forward for the past nine years by voluntarily having their accounts audited by an independent accountant and published online. We have all now taken the decision to voluntarily publish a breakdown of expenditure received under the European Parliament office allowance and all receipts pertaining to this expenditure going forward.

"Labour MEPs are proud to be fighting for hard working people at local, national and international level, in an open and transparent way. We hope that the other political parties will eventually follow our lead on this."

Ends