



## STATEMENT BY ANDREW TURNER – MP FOR THE ISLE OF WIGHT

There is understandable anger and concern in the country about the reported expenses claims made by Members of Parliament of all parties.

Headlines and bulletins have been dominated by stories of how some MPs have been 'cashing in' and abusing the system. I know the people I represent on the Isle of Wight want and deserve a detailed account of how much I have claimed and for what.

I have two homes, a flat in London, close to the House of Commons, and a house in Newport. My home in Newport is the one on which I claim Accommodation Costs Allowance (ACA or second home allowance). This was based on the number of nights I spent in each place at the time that I made the nomination, as this was the definition set out in the rules.

For example in the year ending March 2008, (the most recent year soon to be published), my expenses under this heading were £19,953 - that is ranked 389<sup>th</sup> out of 646 MPs. They are broken down as follows:

Mortgage interest:	£13,355
Council tax:	£1,609
Utilities: Water rates:	£92
Electricity:	NIL
Gas:	NIL
Telephone:	£375
Service/Maintenance	£550 ( <i>plumbing repairs inc. new immersion heater</i> )
Repairs, Insurance, Security:	£3,969 ( <i>insurance, roof repairs and re-plastering walls</i> )
Other (furniture etc)	NIL
Meals / refreshments:	NIL

I always submitted receipts, or other documentary evidence, for every purchase under this allowance, even those for under £25, which under the current rules do not require any proof. I could also claim £4,800 a year for food but, as you can see from the above, I have not.

In making claims I have tried to differentiate between 'maintenance, repairs and replacement costs' that were allowable claims and 'improvements' that were not. For instance in the same year I replaced the kitchen and paid for it myself.

For clarity I should add that my partner, Carole, and I also own a tenanted flat in Cowes, for which I have not made any expense claims.

Daily commuting is not an option as the Commons sits until 10.30pm on Mondays and Tuesdays, 7.30pm on Wednesdays and 6.30pm on Thursdays. I have always taken my Parliamentary duties seriously and since my election in 2001 have never had any other outside job. Until I suffered a stroke in December 2006 I had one of the best speaking and voting records of any MP.

In the past I have paid for many things out of savings then claimed my expenses in one lump sum at the end of each financial year, but in the future I will claim them more regularly and they will be posted on the internet so everyone can see my claims as they are made.

In terms of the other allowances available to me as an MP, in the year ending 2008 I claimed £7,870 for travel. I could claim for the cost of first class rail travel but I invariably travel second class which means that my travel costs, even including ferry costs, are lower than some MPs who represent nearby constituencies on the mainland. Staff travel costs (between the Island and Westminster) amounted to £976. The total costs of running my office were £108,842 (this includes employing 4 full-time staff). I have also attached a breakdown of my expenses under the various allowances taken from [www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com).

In terms of electorate, the Isle of Wight is the largest constituency in the country with around 110,000 voters, the average across the country of 68,000. I understand that of the 646 MPs, I am ranked as 438<sup>th</sup> in relation to total expenses.

I agree the system of MPs allowances has been widely discredited. I will not comment on what colleagues of all parties are reported to have claimed but I am very sad that it has caused so much damage to public confidence in our democracy. For myself, I accept my share of the responsibility and admit I am embarrassed by it all. It has been a very uncomfortable time but I hope you will now have a clearer understanding of my own position and in a few weeks the complete records will be published.

I did not support the move in the Commons to have MPs' expenses claims being kept secret by making them exempt from the Freedom of Information Act. David Cameron has shown strong leadership on this issue and I am glad he has set out clearly what Conservative MPs are able and not able to claim for in future until the system is reformed.

Finally, I think it is wrong that MPs should vote on their own pay and allowances. Sir Christopher Kelly's independent committee on Standards in Public Life is currently working on a complete reform of the system, which I welcome.

I certainly feel privileged and proud to be your Member of Parliament and will always do my best to represent you and the interests of the Island.

## Andrew Turner – Breakdown of Accommodation Costs Allowance

	Total	Monthly Average
<b>2007/8</b>		
Mortgage Interest	£13,355.28	£1,112.94
Utilities	£92.85	£7.74
Council Tax	£1,609.42	£134.12
Telephone	£375.85	£31.32
Cleaning	£0.00	£0.00
Service/Maintenance	£550.56	£45.88
Repairs/Insurance/Security	£3,969.44	£330.79
Other	£0.00	£0.00
Food	£0.00	£0.00

<b>2006/7</b>		
Mortgage Interest	£11,174.07	£931.17
Utilities	£1,026.30	£85.53
Council Tax	£1,574.53	£131.21
Telephone	£336.59	£28.05
Cleaning	£1,136.00	£94.67
Service/Maintenance	£2,522.80	£210.23
Repairs/Insurance/Security	£1,647.15	£137.26
Other	£646.95	£53.91
Food	£0.00	£0.00

<b>2005/6</b>		
Mortgage Interest	£9,226.80	£768.90
Utilities	£1,320.99	£110.08
Council Tax	£1,409.19	£117.43
Telephone	£137.58	£11.47
Cleaning	£1,128.00	£94.00
Service/Maintenance	£0.00	£0.00
Repairs/Insurance/Security	£5,382.82	£448.57
Other	£1,391.71	£115.98
Food	£0.00	£0.00

<b>2004/5</b>		
Mortgage Interest	£10,473.64	£872.80
Utilities	£0.00	£0.00
Council Tax	£1,445.33	£120.44
Telephone	£0.00	£0.00
Cleaning	£59.50	£4.96
Service/Maintenance	£6,910.00	£575.83
Repairs/Insurance/Security	£825.84	£68.82
Other	£275.00	£22.92
Food	£0.00	£0.00

## ANDREW TURNER - EXPENSE CLAIMS

(from the website [theyworkforyou.com](http://theyworkforyou.com))

Figures in brackets are ranks. Parliament's [explanatory notes](#).

Type	2007/08 (ranking out of 645)	2006/07 (ranking out of 645)	2005/06	2004/05 (ranking out of 659)
Additional Costs Allowance	£19,953 (389th)	£20,064 (384th)	£19,997	£19,983 (308th)
London Supplement	£0	£0	£0	£0
Incidental Expenses Provision	£14,564 (477th)	£15,869 (546th)	£15,719	£17,326 (393rd)
Staffing Allowance	£82,453 (484th)	£83,669 (349th)	£83,161	£72,664 (231st)
Communications Allowance	£6,779 (383rd)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Members' Travel	£7,870 (305th)*	£5,081 (467th)**	£6,139	£6,783 (470th)
Members' Staff Travel	£976 (109th)	£1,014 (124th)	£778	£1,053 (joint 175th)
Members' Spouse Travel	£0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Members' Family Travel	£0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Centrally Purchased Stationery	£1,110 (189th)	£970 (293rd)	£1,600	£1,235 (joint 221st)
Stationery: Associated Postage Costs	£2,523 (293rd)	£1,528 (joint 491st)	£3,605	£2,333 (358th)
Centrally Provided Computer Equipment	£1,413 (joint 62nd)	£1,209 (joint 97th)	£1,209	£1,877 (joint 346th)
Other Costs	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Total</b>	<b>£137,641 (438th)</b>	<b>£129,404 (463rd)</b>	<b>£132,208</b>	<b>£123,254 (325th)</b>

\* Regular journeys between home/constituency/Westminster: Mileage £3,667 (241st). Rail £273 (524th). Misc £3,930 (1st).

\*\* Car £2,516 (362nd). Rail £338 (500th). Other £2,227 (10th).

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