

MPS' OUTSIDE INTERESTS ANALYSIS OF THE REGISTER OF MEMBERS' FINANCIAL INTERESTS

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An analysis of the Register of Members' Financial Interests published on 5 March 2018¹ is presented below. Particular focus is given to outside interests declared under (i) Employment and Earnings; (ii) Land and Property; (iii) Shareholdings; (iv) Miscellaneous; and (v) Family members engaged in lobbying [the public sector], with the following financial threshold for registration:²

Category number and name	Financial threshold for registration
1. Employment and earnings	Individual payments over £100 Over £300 for the total of multiple payments of whatever size from the same source in a calendar year
6. Land and property	(i) Total value of property held: over £100,000 (ii) Total income derived from property: over £10,000 in a calendar year
7. Shareholdings	(i) More than 15% of issued share capital (on preceding 5 April), or (ii) If 15% or less of issued share capital (on preceding 5 April), greater in value than £70,000
8. Miscellaneous	No threshold but Members must believe that someone else might reasonably consider the interest to influence his or her actions or words as a Member
10. Family members engaged in lobbying [the public sector]	No threshold

Given that there are inconsistencies in terms of how MPs go about declaring their interests,³ the amounts and the number of hours spent indicated in this document should be considered as approximations and reasonable estimates. The categories contained in this analysis are also subjective, and therefore summaries based on those categories are estimates.

¹ Available at <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmregmem/180305/contents.htm> . As of this writing, latest version as of 6 June 2018 is available at

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmregmem/180604/contents.htm>

² These are item numbers (1) (6) (7) (8), and (10)

³ Some indicate whether amounts are gross or net and/or before VAT while majority do not specify

Further, only outside interests that were declared between 01 July 2017 and 05 March 2018, including earnings received within the said timeframe were considered in this analysis. Outside interests that expired before 1 July 2017 were not included (this is to account for payments which MPs received as part of their occupation before the June 2017 General Election).

Employment and Earnings

MPs are required to register individual payments of more than £100 received for any employment outside the House and individual payments of £100 or less if total is over £300 from the same source in a calendar year.

For the purposes of this analysis, the outside employment and earnings of the MPs are further categorized as regular or occasional. A total of 119 MPs have regular commitments, 84 have occasional commitments and 27 with both regular and specific commitments.

Regular Outside Employment and Earnings

The 119 MPs holding 135 regular outside engagements or positions have among them total earnings of £279,000 per month and 2,300 hours spent per month on these outside commitments.

If broken down by party, MPs from the Conservative Party comprise 71% of the MPs with regular engagements, followed by Labour and Labour Cooperative at 23% while the remaining 6% is made up of MPs from the Scottish National Party, Liberal Democrat and Democratic Unionist Party. Among the top occupations or positions under this category are Councillors, Directors, Chairmen, Advisers, Managers, and Consultants.

The regular outside commitments that MPs hold are:						
	Conservative	Labour & Labour/ Cooperative	Liberal Democrat	Scottish National Party	Democratic Unionist Party	Total
Total seats held:	316	258	35	12	10	631
Councillor	12	21				33
Chair/Director/Manager	25	1	1	1		28
Adviser/Advisory Board Member	24	1	1		1	27
Consultant	9		1			10
Solicitor/Counsel/Barrister/Lawyer	6	1				7
Reserve Force/Officer/Army Serviceman	5	1				6
Partner	5					5
Writer/Columnist/Editor	4	1		1		6
Dental Surgeon/Doctor/ Psychologist	3			2		5
Author	3	1	1			5

Nurse	1					1
Sole Trader	1					1
Assistant Referee	1					1
Total:	99	27	4	4	1	

The most frequent outside interest observed in this analysis is that of a councillor. However, we heard in evidence that the unexpected general election in 2017 led to a number of councillors being elected who then stood down at the local elections in 2018. At least 23 of these MPs have stood down from their Councillor roles since the 2017 General Election.

Positions, even if not declared under Category 1 of the Register but appear to be a regular commitment, were included in the count for the purposes of this analysis. In particular, being Councillors and Army Reservists were considered as regular engagements.

Earnings and hours spent on regular outside commitments are mostly declared by MPs from the Conservative Party who earned £255,660 and spent 1,514.5 hours per month on their regular outside commitments, followed by Labour and Labour Cooperative MPs at £9,483.51 and 522.43 hours per month. It can be observed, however, that there are some MPs who did not provide complete details of their regular engagements.

The top earners under this category may be further classified as those who have regular commitments with fixed fees and hours and those who do not. Those who have regular commitments, but no fixed fees and/or hours are those who have consistently registered multiple occasions of income from the same activity even though this may be from different sources.

Regular with fixed fees and hours	Amount in £/month	Hours Spent/month
Zahawi, Nadhim	32,976.13	91
Soames, Sir Nicholas	20,182.77	48
Redwood, John	15,716.67	26
Paterson, Mr Owen	14,499	26
Dorries, Ms Nadine	13,000	48

Regular but no fixed fee/hours	Amount in £	Hours Spent
Cox, Mr Geoffrey	322,321.66	731
Bruce, Fiona	160,890.03	80
Rees-Mogg, Mr Jacob	106,025.16	30

Swire, Sir Hugo	25,000.00	10
Clifton-Brown, Sir Geoffrey	21,200	230

Occasional Outside Employment and Earnings

The majority of specific engagements declared by MPs in the Register stemmed from being guest speakers, various media appearances and writing articles for newspapers, journals, and magazines. The 84 MPs who declared occasional earnings have, among them, earned £347,400 and spent 1,345 hours on such commitments in the time period 01 July 2017 to 05 March 2018.

The declared total earnings of MPs from the Conservative Party from occasional engagements amount to £207,796 with corresponding 701 hours spent working on such. The Labour & Labour Cooperative came next, registering £121,643 and 620 hours spent.

While there are only 84 MPs under this category some of them have multiple occasional employments and earnings. In total, there are 105 specific engagements which involved registrable outside interests:

The paid occasional outside activities MPs undertake are:					
	Conservative	Labour & Labour/ Cooperative	Liberal Democrat	Green Party	Total
Total seats held:	316	258	35	1	610
Speaker/Panellist/Appearance/ Radio Contributor	32	25	1	1	59
Writer	19	9	1	1	30
Consultant/Adviser	3				3
Lawyer/Legal Services	1				1
Musician	1	1			2
Doctor	1	1			2
Lecturer/Professor	1	3			4
Author		1	1		2
Adviser		1			1
Political Coordinator		1			1
Total:	58	42	3	2	

It can be further noted that there are 27 MPs who declared having both regular and occasional employment and earnings. 22 of them are from the Conservative Party, 4 from Labour and 1 from Liberal Democrat.

Another common source of additional earning is the completion of opinion surveys. During the period covered by this analysis, there are 92 MPs who earned in total £40,690 from completing surveys from companies such as Ipsos Mori, Populus,

YouGov, and ComRes. Pay range for each survey completed is around £20 to £200 and some MPs have indicated that they intend to donate such amounts earned or that payments have been made direct to charity.

The top 5 earners from occasional engagements have earned among them a total of £164,700 during 432 hours of work.

Specific Engagements	Amount in £	Hours Spent
Williams, Dr Paul	47,756.21	253
Clarke, Mr Kenneth	45,125	62
Duncan Smith, Mr Iain	35,765	88
Lammy, Mr David	18,350.45	29
Bryant, Chris	17,744.50	

Land and Property

Properties that are valued over £100,000 and/or gives rent income over £10,000 per year are required to be registered. There are 128 MPs who declared registrable rent income from a total of 237 leased properties. The breakdown by party is as follows:

Conservative	92
Labour and Labour (Co-op)	27
Liberal Democrat	3
Scottish National Party	3
Democratic Unionist Party	1
Speaker	1
Independent	1

Shareholdings

There are 103 MPs who declared registrable shareholdings. Said registrable shareholdings are in 213 different companies.

75 MPs from the Conservative Party have registrable shareholdings, 15 MPs from Labour and Labour Cooperative, 8 from the Scottish National Party, 4 from the Liberal Democrat, and 1 from the Democratic Unionist Party.

Conservative	75
Labour	12
Scottish National Party	8
Liberal Democrat	4
Labour (Co-op)	3
Democratic Unionist Party	1

Miscellaneous

Declarations under the Miscellaneous category are highly subjective. This is due to the fact that there is no threshold but rather based on the MPs belief that their interests may be perceived by others to influence his official actions or words. As such, declarations found in the Register varied greatly and assumptions had to be made in order to come up with reasonable numbers.

There are 159 MPs who registered that they are holding positions as Director, Chairman, Proprietor, and Traders. At least 36 can be considered to be paid while 194 have indicated that the positions they are holding are unremunerated. However, the format of the register means that this is not very clear.

There are also 39 MPs who have declared that they are non-practising professionals. Barristers and Solicitors make up 87% of the non-practising professionals while the rest are chartered accountants, engineers, and surveyors.

Family Members Engaged in Lobbying

There are 10 MPs who registered having family members engaged in lobbying the public sector. 6 of the said MPs belong to the Labour Party, 3 from the Conservative Party and 1 Liberal Democrat.

MPs without Financial Interest under (1), (6), (7), (8), and (10)

There are 167 MPs who did not have declared outside interests under the items considered under this analysis. The said total, broken down by party is as follows:

Labour	73
Conservative	62
Scottish National Party	13
Labour (Co-op)	8
Sinn Fenn	3
Liberal Democrat	3
Independent	3
Plaid Cymru	2