

Briefing: the cost of MPs in 2020-21

January 2022

Overview:

- The total spend of members of parliament was £132.5 million in the 2020-21 financial year according to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA). This was a 4.6 per cent increase on the £126.7 million spent in 2019-20.
- Britain's most expensive MP was the member for Broxtowe, Darren Henry, with total spending of £280,936. This compares to the least expensive MP which was the member for Kettering, Philip Hollobone, spending £80,709.
- The average cost of an MP was £203,880 in 2020-21, a 29.2 per cent increase from the average £157,747 spent in 2019-20. In 2019-20, the speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle had the largest total spend for a sitting MP at £259,057. In 2020-21, he cost the taxpayer £182,584.
- Kit Malthouse was the most expensive MP attending the cabinet in 2020-21, with total costs of £244,312. This was compared to £178,406 for prime minister Boris Johnson and £168,109 for Sir Keir Starmer.
- Expenses for travel and subsistence claims cost the taxpayer a total of £2,052,140 in 2020-21, an average of £3,157 for each member of parliament. The total fell by 63.3 per cent during the pandemic, from the £5,584,790 spent in 2019-20.
- A total of £283,361 was spent on hotel claims by 49 members of parliament in 2020-21, as part of the MPs' accommodation budget.
- For much of 2020-21 as a result of the covid-19 pandemic, members were not obliged to travel to Westminster and could participate remotely. This would impact some MPs' spending especially with regard to travel and subsistence.

Total business costs:

- Darren Henry, who entered parliament in December 2019, cost the taxpayer £280,936 in 2020-21. This included £13,898 in other costs, as well as a £15,600 contingency amount requested to his staffing budget.
- The average cost of an MP was £203,880 in 2020-21. The speaker, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, had the largest total spend for a sitting MP in 2019-20 at £259,057. In 2020-21 he fell to 516th, spending £182,584, a fall of £76,473.
- The least expensive MP in 2020-21 was Philip Hollobone, member of parliament for Kettering since 2005, with total costs of £80,709 – over £200,000 less than the most expensive MP.
- Kit Malthouse, minister of state for crime and policing and MP for North West Hampshire, was the most expensive member attending cabinet in 2020-21, with total costs of £244,312.
- John Healey, shadow secretary of state for defence and MP for Wentworth and Dearne was the most expensive member attending shadow cabinet in 2020-21, with total costs of £253,716.
- These compare to £178,406 for the prime minister Boris Johnson and £168,019 for Sir Keir Starmer in 2020-21.
- On average, MPs in the cabinet cost £184,333 in 2020-21, compared to £210,639 for members of the shadow cabinet.

MPs' expenses:

- Jim Shannon, the MP for Strangford, claimed the most in travel and subsistence expenses in 2020-21, totalling £24,064.
- Travel and subsistence claims cost the taxpayer a total of £2,052,140 in 2020-21, an average of £3,157 for each member of parliament.
- Naseem Shah, the MP for Bradford West, claimed the most for accommodation costs in 2020-21, with a total of £39,315.
- Around 49 MPs (7.5 per cent) chose to stay in hotels when in London in 2020-21. A total of £283,361 was spent on hotel claims as part of the MPs' accommodation budget.

Table 1: top ten MPs with the highest levels of spending, 2020-21

Name	Constituency	Total cost (£)
Darren Henry	Broxtowe	280,936
Damien Moore	Southport	266,092
Owen Thompson	Midlothian	264,347
David Mundell	Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale	260,952
Khalid Mahmood	Birmingham, Perry Barr	259,889
James Daly	Bury North	256,855
Brendan Clarke-Smith	Bassetlaw	256,925
Chris Loder	West Dorset	256,176
Jon Trickett	Hemsworth	254,533
John Healey	Wentworth and Dearne	253,716

Table 2: top ten MPs with the lowest levels of spending, 2020-21

Name	Constituency	Total cost (£)
Philip Hollobone	Kettering	80,709
John Redwood	Wokingham	106,682
Edward Argar	Charnwood	112,037
Jerome Mayhew	Broadland	116,820
Adam Afriyie	Windsor	117,095
Desmond Swayne	New Forest West	117,698
Jesse Norman	Hereford and South Herefordshire	118,679
Alex Burghart	Brentwood and Ongar	120,498
Gordon Henderson	Sittingbourne and Sheppey	121,641
Graham Stringer	Blackley and Broughton	122,171

Table 3: top ten MPs with the highest levels of travel and subsistence spending, 2020-21

Name	Constituency	Total cost (£)
Jim Shannon	Strangford	24,064
Sir Jeffrey Donaldson	Lagan Valley	20,706
Ian Paisley	North Antrim	19,293
Andrew Bowie	West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	17,270
Damien Moore	Southport	16,928
Sammy Wilson	East Antrim	16,345
Jamie Stone	Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross	15,849
Mark Jenkinson	Workington	15,617

Name	Constituency	Total cost (£)
Nigel Evans	Ribble Valley	14,886
Christian Wakeford	Bury South	13,899

Methodology:

The salary of MPs, which from 1 April 2020 was £81,932, is not included in the figures above.

Many MPs have 'other' costs as part of their total spending in 2020-21. What is included in these costs is not outlined in detail by IPSA.

There were an additional 28 MPs who are no longer sitting as they either lost or stood down at the 2019 election. Each had various minimal costs for wind-up, travel and other costs which in total came to £47,999.61. These members and their costs have not been included in this note.