MPs' salaries increase in April. What do their pay and expenses cover?

**SALARY**
An MP's salary is £67,060 (April 2013) – this will increase to £67,060 in April 2014.

**ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES**
- Accommodation: Not payable to London Area MPs or those with grace-and-favour accommodation. Covers rental payments, hotel accommodation and associated expenditure. For owners of second homes, it covers utility bills and Council Tax.
- Caring responsibilities: Various levels of parental or caring responsibility for dependent children or a family member.

**TRAVEL**
There is no limit on the travel expenses MPs can claim, but it is subject to rules. Overall MPs claimed £4.5m in travel expenses in 2006/7.

**STAFFING**
Some of the costs included are: staff salaries, National Insurance and pension contributions, overtime payments, health and welfare costs.

**OFFICE COSTS**
This covers costs for renting, equipping and running an MP's office or surgery. Some of the things it doesn't include: alcoholic drinks, stationery provided by the Houses of Parliament, newsletters, personal accountancy.

**START-UP EXPENSES**
This is to meet the costs of setting up one or more constituency offices as a new MP.

**WINDING-UP EXPENSES**
This is to meet the cost of completing any outstanding parliamentary functions when a person ceases to be an MP.

**EXPENSES**
- **START-UP EXPENSES**
  - London: £6,450
  - Non-London: £53,350
- **WINDING-UP EXPENSES**
  - London: £65,945
  - Non-London: £24,321
- **TRAVEL**
  - London: £6,000
  - Non-London: £5,810
- **ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES**
  - London area: £20,100
  - Non-London area: £45,000
- **CARING EXPENSES**
  - £2,425 to £5,000
- **OFFICE COSTS**
  - £4.5m in travel expenses in 2006/7.

**MPs around the world**
Where does the British MP's salary sit when compared to MPs in other countries worldwide? All amounts are in British pounds sterling, equivalent to national currency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Salary (Thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>£27,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
<td>£14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>£51,075</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>£63,186</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>£53,952</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>£53,844</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>£63,960</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>£73,159</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>£75,488</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>£69,342</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>£108,032</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>£112,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>£120,875</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- The Westminster money-go-round: salary plus yearly expenses.
- The graph shows salaries in British pounds in 2013, equivalent to national currency.
- GDP per head in 2013 is used as a measure of relative income.
- The CPI is used to adjust salaries for inflation.
- MPs’ Scheme of Business Costs and Expenses (Fifth Edition) 1 April 2013. For more details visit www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/PPI-3-33. The amount of pay and expenses for countries other than Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, comparisons based on gross basic annual salary before tax and pension contributions and without expenses or allowances, for a member of the national parliament in (nearest) equivalent position to a UK House of Commons MP without additional responsibilities. 5 Those London Area and Non-London Area MPs who declare they won’t claim for accommodation expenses but represent a London constituency are entitled to a London Area Living Payment - £13,703. Sources: Wheel of Fortune, www.parliament.uk/worldwide salaries, PSE.