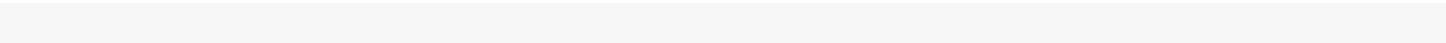




# Research survey



## Information for participants

This questionnaire is part of a University of Bath postgraduate research project. Participating in this research is entirely voluntary. You are free to withdraw from the survey at any point simply by closing your browser. Once you have submitted the survey you can no longer withdraw your information as it will not be possible to identify individual responses.

Please read the following information about the study before giving your consent:

- I understand and acknowledge that this survey is part of an academic study and that the University of Bath will use the data I provide for no other purposes than research.
- I understand that the data I provide will be kept confidential, and that on completion of the questionnaire my data will be anonymised by removing all links between my name or other identifying information and my study data.
- I agree to the University of Bath keeping and processing the data I have provided during the course of this study.
- I understand that the University of Bath may use the data collected for this project in a future research project but that the conditions on this form under which I have provided the data will still apply.

\* Do you fully and freely consent to taking part in this study?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please read and consider the following information:

MPs are allowed to claim expenses to cover business costs.

The average expenses claim in 2022-23 was **£220,000**

\* In general, do you think MPs' expenses claims are too high, too low or about right?

- ☐ Much too low
- ☐ Somewhat too low
- ☐ About right
- ☐ Somewhat too high
- ☐ Much too high

\* To what extent do you agree

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I trust the government in Westminster to do what is right	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I trust the Prime Minister to act in the best interests of people in the UK	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I trust my local MP to represent my constituency	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MPs are too easily influenced by the rich and powerful	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MPs are guided by public, rather than private, interests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MPs understand the needs of people like me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Most MPs don't have the right skills to do the job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Please read and consider the following information:**

MPs are allowed to claim expenses to cover business costs.

The average expenses claim in 2022-23 was **£220,000**

The **Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA)** allocates a budget for expenses and **sets rules** about what MPs can (and can't) claim for.

All **claims are checked by IPSA** before MPs are reimbursed and the details are made publicly available on the IPSA website.

\* In general, do you think MPs' expenses claims are too high, too low or about right?

- ☐ Much too low
- ☐ Somewhat too low
- ☐ About right
- ☐ Somewhat too high
- ☐ Much too high

\* To what extent do you agree

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I trust the government in Westminster to do what is right	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I trust the Prime Minister to act in the best interests of people in the UK	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I trust my local MP to represent my constituency	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MPs are too easily influenced by the rich and powerful	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

MPs are guided by public, rather than private, interests

☐☐☐☐☐

MPs understand the needs of people like me

☐☐☐☐☐

Most MPs don't have the right skills to do the job

☐☐☐☐☐

### Experimental treatment #3

**Please read and consider the following information:**

MPs are allowed to claim expenses to cover business costs.

The average expenses claim in 2022-23 was **£220,000**

MPs' expenses are primarily used to **pay staff and run constituency offices.**

This enables MPs to provide **local support for constituents**, hold surgeries, answer calls, letters and emails, and take part in community meetings.

\* In general, do you think MPs' expenses claims are too high, too low or about right?

☐

Much too low

☐

Somewhat too low

☐

About right

☐

Somewhat too high

☐

Much too high

\* To what extent do you agree

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Neither agree nor  
disagree

Agree

Strongly agree

I trust the government in Westminster to do what is right

☐☐☐☐☐

I trust the Prime Minister to act in the best interests of people in the UK	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I trust my local MP to represent my constituency	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MPs are too easily influenced by the rich and powerful	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MPs are guided by public, rather than private, interests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MPs understand the needs of people like me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Most MPs don't have the right skills to do the job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Control group

\* To what extent do you agree

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I trust the government in Westminster to do what is right	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I trust the Prime Minister to act in the best interests of people in the UK	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I trust my local MP to represent my constituency	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MPs are too easily influenced by the rich and powerful	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MPs are guided by public, rather than private, interests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MPs understand the needs of people like me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Most MPs don't have the right skills to do the job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

On average, how much do you think each MP claims in expenses per year? Please make your best guess if you are not sure.

£    per year

\* In general, do you think MPs' expenses claims are too high, too low or about right?

- ☐ Much too low
  - ☐ Somewhat too low
  - ☐ About right
  - ☐ Somewhat too high
  - ☐ Much too high
- 

How interested would you say you are in politics?

- ☐ Very interested
- ☐ Quite interested
- ☐ Hardly interested
- ☐ Not at all interested

Which political party appeals to you most?

- ☐ Conservative Party
- ☐ Labour Party
- ☐ Liberal Democrats
- ☐ Green Party
- ☐ Reform UK
- ☐ Scottish National Party
- ☐ Plaid Cymru
- ☐ Democratic Unionist Party
- ☐ Sinn Féin
- ☐ None

☐ Other

Other (please specify)

How did you vote in the UK European Union Membership referendum (the 'Brexit' referendum) in 2016?

- ☐ Voted 'Leave'
- ☐ Voted 'Remain'
- ☐ Spoilt ballot paper
- ☐ Did not vote
- ☐ Was not eligible to vote
- ☐ Don't know/not sure
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Which of these describes your personal income last year?

- ☐ Below £20,000
- ☐ £20,000 - £39,000
- ☐ £40,000 - £59,000
- ☐ £60,000 - £79,000
- ☐ £80,000 - £99,000
- ☐ £100,000 - £119,000
- ☐ £120,000 - £139,000
- ☐ Above £139,000



☐ Prefer not to answer

Do you have experience of claiming expenses to cover additional work-related costs (e.g. travel)?

☐ Yes, I have claimed expenses in my current job or in a previous role

☐ No, I have never made an expenses claim

☐ Not sure

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