

STEVE REED MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr David Cameron,
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
SW1A 2AA

04th September 2014

Dear Prime Minister,

The current Leader of Croydon Council's Conservatives and former Conservative Leader of Croydon Council, Cllr Mike Fisher, accepted a £10,000 increase in his council allowances earlier this year without declaring it. He has done this by demanding 'back pay' for increases in allowances that were recommended but not taken up by councillors between 2010 and 2014.

Cllr Fisher's behaviour appears to breach the Nolan Principles for Conduct in Public Life, and it is questionable whether it also breaches the legal requirements for the public declaration of payments to councillors. I have further concerns that the Scheme of Allowances agreed by the council in 2010 was deliberately phrased to persuade the public that councillors were not accepting increased allowances while giving themselves leeway to subsequently take increases without declaring them. Even if this was not illegal, it certainly appears to be an attempt to deceive the public.

Only Councillor Fisher has so far admitted accepting additional allowances in this way, but I am concerned that other Conservative councillors may have made similar attempts to claim back-pay following their election defeat in May, and we do not yet know whether other payments were made to councillors including Councillor Fisher.

In the interests of transparency and public reassurance, will you support my request for the Council to set up an independently chaired inquiry to establish the full facts and recommend measures to prevent any recurrence if necessary? Despite the controversy this matter has created locally, Cllr Fisher has so far refused to stand aside as Leader of the Conservative Group. Given his refusal, I call on you as Leader of the Conservative Party to suspend him as Group Leader until the full facts have been established.

I look forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely
Steve Reed

Please reply to: 908 London Road, Thornton Heath CR7 7PE

Tel: 020 8665 1214

Email: steve.reed.mp@parliament.uk Website: www.stevereedmp.co.uk