

Address

4th July 2017

Dear MP

I felt compelled to write to you following the recent vote in the House of Commons regarding public sector pay. I was appalled to see Conservative members braying like animals following the vote not to lift the public sector pay cap. It would appear they believed they had done a great service for the country, nothing could be further from the truth.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/public-sector-pay-cap-all-mps-vote-against-list-austerity-freeze-labour-jeremy-corbyn-conservatives-a7813706.html>

Since 2010, successive Governments have subjected teachers to continuous pay freezes and pay caps. In 2016 the Conservative Government applied a 1% increase to the statutory minima and maxima of all pay ranges in the national pay framework, including allowances. Where teachers were on the minimum of their ranges, the pay level must be increased by 1%; but for other teachers, schools had discretion over how to apply the increase, so there was no guarantee all teachers will receive the 1%.

In its 2016 report, the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) made a clear statement that a pay increase "significantly higher" than 1% will be required "before the end of this Parliament" in order to recruit and retain enough teachers over the coming years - and that schools will need more funding to allow for this. The STRB told the Government it should make preparations for a higher increase in the next couple of years. Nicky Morgan, then Secretary of State for Education, chose to ignore these recommendations in her statement to Parliament about the report, and the Government plans to continue holding teacher pay well below inflation.

Although pay is not the only factor it is a factor in recruitment and retention of staff coupled with changes to the pension and increased contributions for pensions and National Insurance. If the cap is removed more money must be given to schools they

cannot be expected to fund any salary increase from existing budgets. If my salary had increased in line with inflation since 2010 by September 2016 it would be £5032.00 higher than what it actually was.

During this time the pay for MPs has increased by more than £10,000 The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (Ipsa) has recommended that basic pay for 2017-18 would go up 1.4%, in line with changes to average wages in the wider public sector. The pay cap of 1% is still in place for teachers, despite what the STCPD said in its report. Are MPs not public servants? There are growing calls from inside the Cabinet and the media for the cap to be relaxed.

I have looked at your voting record so I am not hopeful but I urge you if there is another vote to remove the 1% cap on public sector pay please vote for that cap to be removed so that my standard of living doesn't fall further?

Yours sincerely