

DIANA WALLIS PARLIAMENTARY ALLOWANCES 2007

MEPs' expenses are paid for directly by the European Parliament. The conversion rate from Euros used here is that of 30 January 2008.

Travel

Members are entitled to a travel and subsistence allowance in respect of the days on which they participate in meetings of official Parliament bodies. Such participation must be attested by signing either the attendance register open in the meeting room, or, during part-sessions in Strasbourg and Brussels, the attendance register in the Chamber.

Diana Wallis' total allowance for travel in 2007 was £41,558.4. This includes weekly travel to and from Strasbourg (twelve times a year) and Brussels, and travel and hotel on delegations and speaking engagements around Europe and beyond. It also includes the use of taxis. Here is a list of some of these conferences Diana spoke at in 2007: Ljubliana (Civil law - University), Riga (New Neighbourhood policy), Georgia USA (Rome II and EU-US relations), Rome (Bar European Group annual conference), Stuttgart (Contract law), Muenster (Contract law), Trier (Alternative Dispute resolution), Brussels (Debt collecting), Prague (Personal injury law), Strasbourg (Euroculture students programme), Paris (Private international law), Vienna (United Nations and contract law), Brighton (direct democracy), Trier (Better law-making), London (Civil justice day), Liverpool (School of Politics), London (National liberal club), London (College of law), London (Comparative law).

Subsistence

In 2007, Diana Wallis received a further £26,200.1 as a daily subsistence allowance to cover accommodation in Brussels and Strasbourg. This equates to £207.53 per day of participation in meetings of official Parliament bodies (as at 1 January 2007).

General Expenditure

Members receive a flat-rate allowance of £35,221.4 per year (as at 1 January 2007) which is chiefly intended to cover office management expenditure, phone bills, postage, the purchase, management and use of IT equipment, and travel by Members within their own Member State. In accordance with the LDEPP Guidance Note on Use of Members' Allowances, an independent annual account of this allowance covering the year 2008 will be produced early in 2009. In addition, an account for the year 2007 is currently being prepared and will be posted shortly.

Staff

Each Member is entitled to a parliamentary assistance allowance to cover expenses arising out of the employment or use of the services of one or more assistants whom the Member may choose. The parliamentary assistance allowance for 2007 was £138,315 per year of which Diana Wallis has left a total of £16,180.41 unclaimed. This money was used to pay salaries and expenses of 1 full-time and 1 part-time assistant in the constituency; 1 full-time and 1 part-time assistant in Brussels; and 1 further assistant working between the two locations. One of Diana's assistants is her husband Stewart Arnold (please see her Declaration of Financial Interests for 2007 above). He is employed on a salary band of £15-20,000 gross for the UK 2007 tax year. Finally, in 2007, the full-time assistant's post in Brussels was replaced following an open appointment process which attracted more than 400 applicants.

During the course of the year, Diana Wallis also used this allowance to pay 2 trainees from Hull University and to reimburse the travel costs of 3 interviewees as part of the open appointment process. She also has a further Brussels-based assistant specifically assigned to assist her in her responsibility as a Vice President of Parliament who is paid directly by Parliament as a temporary agent.

Diana Wallis' staff salaries are not dealt with by herself. Rather, they are handled either by an independent Brussels notary or an independent paying agent in the constituency who receive the allowance from Parliament, make payments to staff, deal with tax and social security payments, and produce a yearly account to Parliament's services.