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CHRON. 18/SEP 2015

MPs claim more than £740,000 in expenses

BARNSLEY'S MPs claimed more than £740,000 in expenses, new figures show.

Data from the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority for 2014-15 shows the four MPs who represent the borough – Dan Jarvis, Michael Dugher, John Healey and Angela Smith – claimed a total of £743,164.28 up to May 31, this year.

This is an increase of £32,581.06 on the same period for 2013-2014 and includes money claimed for staffing and office costs, travel and accommodation but not MPs' £67,059.96 salaries.

The breakdown of claims is as follows:

Dan Jarvis, Barnsley Central:

Accommodation: £18,772.91

Office costs: £22,434.93

Staffing: £137,983.79

Travel: £4,900.41

Total: £184,092.04

*£1,482.99 less than in 2013-2014.

Michael Dugher, Barnsley East:

Accommodation: £13,719.68

Office Costs: £16,456.05

Total: £178,735.75

*£6,921.84 more than in 2013-2014.

Angela Smith, Penistone and Stocksbridge:

Accommodation: £20,599.94

Office costs: £17,829.37

Staffing: £138,197.60

Travel: £11,405.38

Total: £188,032.29

*£24,409.93 more than in 2013-2014.

John Healey, Wentworth and the Deame:

Accommodation: £18,777.63

Office Costs: £23,094.41

Staffing: £138,600.01 (overspent by a penny).

Travel: £11,832.15

Total: £192,304.20

*£2,732.22 more than in 2013-2014.

Each of the MPs employs their spouse, which is something they are permitted to do.

Angela Smith employs husband Steve Wilson as a full-time senior parliamentary assistant, a role which paid between £35,000 and £40,000 during 2014-2015.

John Healey employs wife Jackie Bate, part time, as an office manager. She was paid between £10,000 and £15,000.

Michael Dugher employs his wife Joanna as a part-time office manager. She received a salary of between £35,000 and £40,000.

Dan Jarvis employs wife Rachel Jarvis on a part-time basis as a