

Tommy Two Dinners: A Reminder

The Daily express



This article about Greedy Guts Watson, is for no other reason than to let him know that I haven't forgotten about him. I know that he must check this site out because Sue, the NSPCC' whistle-blower informed me of the following:

I would love to be a fly on the wall and to hear what verucca and co are saying. You've obviously got them worried, I notice they have been visiting my website and viewing my linked in profile! Tom Watson was also viewing my web site! I sent verucca a request to link in with me just so he knows that i know he has been snooping around!

Not much longer to wait now Tom. I should be done writing up the damming evidence on the NSPCC by the end of the week.

No threat their Tommy Two Dinners... Just saying.

How a Labour MP and his family are raking in £300,000 from taxpayer

By Mark Lister

A LABOUR MP and members of his family who work in the party are costing taxpayers £300,000 a year, it is claimed.

Tom Watson's wife, brother, sister-in-law and cousin are all employed by the party.

Gordon Brown's trusted ally represents West Bromwich East, one of the most deprived local authorities in the country.

Yet it is claimed that between them the Watsons rake in more than £300,000 a year in salaries.

Mr Watson, 41, nicknamed Tommy Two Dinners, has been the larger than-life MP for West Bromwich East since 2001.

He was a Government whip from 2004 to 2006 and then a union defence minister.

But he resigned after staging an unsuccessful coup to force the then Prime Minister, Tony Blair, to stand down.

Mr Watson was restored to ministerial office after Mr Blair quit. He was appointed Cabinet Office Minister in January.

He has been tipped for even higher office and is well liked by his constituents in one of two Labour-held seats in Sandwell in the Black Country.

Deprived

Sandwell, one of the most deprived council areas in the country, consistently comes close to the bottom of league tables for poor health, exam results, housing and joblessness.

The MP has also earned himself a reputation in the Labour party for his Tory-taunting postings on his website. He is credited with being Britain's first MP to start an internet blog.

In 2006-'07, the latest year for which figures are available, Mr Watson earned an MP's basic salary of almost £60,000.

But his Parliamentary expenses were £150,000, bringing his total package to £210,000. His annual expenses were the second-highest among MPs in the West Midlands, topped only by Liam Byrne, Labour MP for Birmingham Hodge Hill and the Minister for the West Midlands.

MPs of all parties consistently point out that many expenses they receive are not an additional salary but go on support staff, services or essential equipment.

Mr Watson's wife Siobhan works in his constituency office in West Bromwich and is paid up to £20,000 a year.

His brother Dan is constituency director to Euro MP Michael Cashman, the gay activist and former EastEnders actor, and he is earning an estimated £25,000 a year.

Dan Watson's wife Joanna has three jobs. Like her husband,



MP Watson and his wife



THREE JOBS: Joanna Watson

she works for Mr Cashman and for the Wolverhampton Labour MP Pat McFadden - yet still finds time to be a Labour councillor in Sandwell.

It is unclear how much her jobs bring in but they are believed to earn her more than £30,000 annually.

Amy Watson, cousin of Tom and Dan, earns about £21,000 a year working for Birmingham Northfield Labour MP Richard

family. But I do not employ them and I have no idea how much each of them earns.

"I provide a fully comprehensive, hard-working service for all my constituents. Who other MPs employ is a matter for them.

"What is important is that we provide an excellent service for my constituents. I think we pass the test."

MEP Mr Cashman said: "These figures are completely wrong. I employ my staff because of the skills they offer, not because of who they are.

"It is important that I have a fully staffed office in the West Midlands that can cope when I am working in Brussels and Strasbourg.

"My West Midlands-based staff are steeped in the tradition of public service and like many public servants work many more hours than they are contracted to do on behalf of my constituents.

"In the private sector they would be paid triple what they are paid working for me."

MP Pat McFadden said: "All my staff, including Jo and Dan, do a very good job for me and for constituents of Wolverhampton South-east.

"They work hard for local people and there is no reason why they should not be allowed to do these jobs."

The West Midlands Labour Party also disputed the earnings total.

The spotlight has been thrown on MPs' expenditure and the employment of family members following the Derek Conway affair.

The Kent MP was sacked from the Tory party in Parliament after it emerged that he employed a son at taxpayers' expense without being able to demonstrate what work was done.

Work and Pensions Secretary Peter Hain was forced to resign when his failure to register £100,000 in donations to his failed deputy leadership campaign was referred to police.

'My wife is the lowest paid... I've no idea what all the others earn'

Burden. The family's combined earnings mean the estimated total annual cost to the taxpayer is more than £300,000.

MP Mr Watson claimed yesterday that the sum is not as high as that.

He added: "My salary and expenses are already a matter of public record.

"My wife works for me as the lowest-paid of my four constituency staff, earning between £17,000 and £19,999. My brother, sister-in-law and cousin all work for other MPs. We are a political