



David Rieley runs the Old Talbot Inn, Hilton, which serves cask beers.

Discussion on beer tax

IN discussion on this year's Budget, I wanted the Government to have two different levels of alcohol duty – a reduced one for beer sold from casks and a higher one for that sold in bottles and cans.

I felt that beer sold in pubs, which is largely supplied in casks, is drunk in a more supervised environment.

The environmental impacts of bottling and canning are also relevant.

I put this idea directly to Chancellor Alistair Darling suggesting that he looked at the issue again. He said he would re-examine this.

Facts and figures

- This publication is funded by the Communications Allowance, which provides funds to communicate with constituents;
- I have spoken in 27 debates;
- I have received answers to 102 written questions;
- I am a member of the Treasury Select Committee;
- I have voted in 74 per cent of votes in Parliament;
- My team has dealt with more than 3,000 new cases;
- I spent £150,264 in 2007/08 of expenses on staffing, travel, office and second home expenses (see this page for details).

CPS performance to be investigated

I HAVE expressed concerns about the effectiveness of rape prosecutions in Derbyshire.

In June, I asked Solicitor General Vera Baird QC to look into the performance of the county's Crown Prosecution Service after being alerted to a local case where I believe there was lack of preparedness.

Derbyshire Rape Crisis has also told me about its concerns about the prosecution of a number of

rape and sexual assault cases.

Ms Baird had already announced that there would be a programme of visits to all CPS offices across the country. I asked her – during parliamentary proceedings – to prioritise an inspection of Derbyshire's performance on rape cases.

The Solicitor General replied that she would investigate the cases further and possibly accelerate the time of the visit.

My response to allowance row

IN May, I announced that I would pay for fixtures and fittings bought for my London home when I retire at the next election.

This was my response to the row over MPs' allowances.

During a four-year period, I was given contributions towards various fixtures and furniture for my London home. My wife and I paid the overwhelming majority of the cost ourselves.

Although all these claims were accepted by the parliamentary fees office without any reduction, I have noted the view that claims for mortgage interest payments for a London home were reasonable but those for furnishings were not.

So I decided to pay towards the items at a depreciated figure – reflecting their use during my time as an MP – when I stand down.

During 2008/09, my accommodation claims were around £10,000 – the limit is over £24,000 – reflecting much lower mortgage interest and the fact that I had already bought the items needed to live in London while doing my job.

GET IN TOUCH AND HAVE YOUR SAY

HERE'S how you can get in touch:

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What issues concern you? Do you have any suggestions for improving South Derbyshire?

Name:

Telephone:

Address:

E-mail:

Would you like to receive the e-newsletter? Yes / No

Return to: Mark Todd MP, Freepost, MID23132, Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE11 9BR

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SouthDerbyshire

*Annual Report to Constituents
2008/09 from MP Mark Todd*

Goals for final year as your MP

WELCOME to my latest annual report which outlines my work during 2008/09 and looks forward to next year.

As you may know, I decided I would be standing down at the next election back in 2007 so this will be my last report.

Highlights of the past year include making some progress in my campaign to set up an arts centre in this area; demonstrating the benefits of care farming; lobbying for free fruit to be available to more children plus setting up a credit-crunch round table.

I have also voiced my concerns about rape prosecution by Derbyshire CPS and helped to get a treatment for Motor Neurone Disease on the agenda.

I have increased the number of people subscribing to my e-newsletter and my team has dealt with more than 3,000 new cases.

Two months of this period was dominated by press coverage of parliamentary expenses and allowances. This report includes an explanation of my position.

My priorities for my last months as your MP include:

- Helping individuals and businesses through the current downturn;
- Continuing the campaign to get an arts centre in Swadlincote linked to a secondary school;
- Tackling energy companies and the regulator over energy charges;
- Helping to ensure that South Derbyshire gets the fairest deal possible for its council housing.

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Covering the wards of Aston, Boulton, Chellaston, Church Gresley, Etwall, Hartshorne and Ticknall, Hatton, Hilton, Linton, Melbourne, Midway, Newhall and Stanton, North West Parishes, Repton, Seales, Stenson, Swadlincote, Willington and Findern and Woodville.

