



## About Trust

### Why has Trust been set up?

Because trust has been lost. And because the people who lost it have learnt nothing from the expenses scandal. Most MPs standing for re-election have been implicated in the expenses scandal. This isn't good enough.

### Do you trust the three main party leaders?

No. They knew what their MPs were up to and they connived at it. They all knew what we only discovered last summer. They, and their MPs, would still be at it if the truth hadn't become known.

### Do you trust politicians?

We want to. Historically, most people who have got involved in politics in this country have done so because of a genuine sense of public service. The culture of personal enrichment, with MPs earning a salary which puts them instantly into the highest 5% pay bracket, is a relatively recent phenomenon. The secrecy and outrageous tax-free perks MPs have latterly cloaked their actions in is a still more recent development.

### Do you think MPs deserve fair pay?

Of course. And when the modern parliamentary allowances scheme was introduced, it was explicitly designed to enable those from less wealthy backgrounds to be able to afford to discharge the duties of being a member of parliament. These payments were never introduced to provide MPs with private assets at public expense worth hundreds of thousands of pounds. Nor were such payments introduced to subsidise already rich MPs. One of the most scandalous aspects of the entire expenses crisis has been the way already very well off MPs intentionally took advantage of public funds for their own private gain.

### What's the problem with so many MPs?

The people who caused the problem won't solve it. They'll just do it again. After all, if you re-elect MPs guilty of abusing their expenses, they will not only have got away with it, they will be able to claim they have received your approval for their actions.

## Are you going to stand candidates in every constituency?

Trust wants to make a point. We are truly a one-issue party, and our issue is letting the voters express their feelings about what MPs did in the dark with their money. Trust is not pretending that we want to form the next government, or even that we should. We believe in party politics, and we fully support the Westminster form of parliamentary democracy. Ours is an excellent form of politics, it simply deserves better politicians.

## Where will you stand candidates?

We will only stand candidates against some of the most high profile expenses abusers. Only incumbent MPs who have misused their expenses are liable to face a challenge from Trust. But then the sad truth is, most MPs abused their expenses, and a clear majority of those standing for re-election did.

## Are you anti-Tory (or anti-UKIP)?

We're not anti-anyone. We're in favour of MPs you can trust: that is the one cause which motivates us. The one thing you can be sure of about the majority of Tory and Labour MPs standing for re-election is that you cannot trust them on the matter of expenses.

## Why should we care?

MPs have let the public down. Too many of those who did are trying to get away with it. Once it was revealed what they had been up to, what was their response? To claim that they should never have been doing the things they had been doing, so enthusiastically, so creatively and for so long. MPs from all parties then told us they wanted to "move on". To say that though the people will not change, their personalities will. For MPs, of all people, to have behaved this way is worse than wrong, it diminishes the very thing democracy is based on: trust. If you can't trust the people you send to Parliament to make the laws you obey, who can you trust? If you can't trust the people who tax you, and who spend your taxes, to behave properly with public funds, who can you trust? If you care, you need to send the parties whose MPs abused your trust a message. That message is a vote for Trust.

## What will happen if we don't act?

You will get the politicians you deserve. In no other line of work would the incredible, unacceptable behaviour of MPs be tolerated. In the private sector and in the public sector alike, if you had broken the rules, and broken them to the tune of tens of thousands of pounds of other people's money going straight into your back pocket, you wouldn't have your job any more. And you'd almost certainly have a lot less than that. You wouldn't be asking for your contract to be renewed, and be given the opportunity to keep doing what you had been doing in secret for so long. And you certainly wouldn't be shamelessly telling tens of thousands of voters what an excellent person you are, and why you should be re-elected. You would almost certainly be facing criminal charges.

## Surely the expenses scandal is all in the past?

MPs have the most generous, gold-plated pension scheme in the entire public sector. All funded by you, the taxpayer. MPs won't ensure that public sector pension schemes are fully funded. The private sector can't afford to. Yet they'll take care of themselves. Or rather, they'll go on making sure that you, that taxpayer, keeps on taking care of them. These are the men and women who are standing for re-election from this disgraced House of Commons. Trust exists so that you can have a choice, and so that you can send a message to the main parties. Always remember, all the main parties knew what was going on. None of them did anything about it. All we want is that the people who sit in parliament be worthy of the trust of the people who send them there. The MPs we are going to stand against, we now know, never did deserve your trust, and don't deserve to have it wasted on them again.

Promoted by Bill Griffiths on behalf of Trust, both at 83 Victoria Street, Westminster, SW1H 0HW