

M Wigglesworth

"would you employ someone who is only willing to put bread
..... on their families tables for two to two and a half
years?"

It is unfair to ask someone not to take advantage of an available
system if they are facing no income in the foreseeable future.

Could this work ?

Allocate a sum of money for each constituency, and split it
between

the winning MP and anyone who polls (say) 15% of the vote.

Give the incumbent MP a salary of say £80-120k (enough to hold
a

marriage together?)

and the losing MP's the average salary for their constituency
+10%

If the losing MP with 15% of the vote has a 2nd job, halve the
retainer (or some other formula), sliding to zero at say £40k

This gives people who have motivation to serve the electorate,
security for their family if they choose a political career. Further,
having a second (maybe a third) person with the time and
interest to serve their electorate may keep a check on the incumbent
MP as there will be extra eyes to oversee their work.

A senior FCO man (Tom Brimelow) once responded to my query as to why
we don't restrict entry to political circles at an age limit of say
25 for local politics and 35 for central politics, and his
observation is as apt today as ever. He said it didn't give them
time to learn their craft.

That word "craft" seems to be the key, as is the ability and
willingness to recognise those who have the it.

The current MP expenses system is a great training ground for our
politicians to learn to recognise abuse in political systems and
others exercising the "craft"!

C'est la vie!

I hope I may have offered a different perspective?

I know there are lots of ideas about taxpayer owned flats for out of
town MP's - jolly good I say!

Good luck to you

with best regards