

CHIEF WHIP

There are good arguments for improving the status of Parliamentary Private Secretaries:

1. It will improve their morale;
2. If PPSs get closer to their Departments and their Ministers, they will make better Ministers themselves if their time should come.

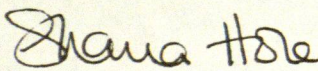
The role of the PPS has been progressively downgraded over the years and I believe most do little more than:

1. attend occasional ministerial meetings;
2. pair their ministers;
3. help with questions.

I propose that the PPSs should be called together so that the "best practice" in the treatment of PPSs can be established and, subsequently, that that best practice can be communicated to all Ministers.

Secondly, I think there should be occasional meetings organised for PPSs which are addressed by Ministers, not on policy, but on the work of a Minister and how to handle a job which is completely different from the role of a backbencher.

If I could have your approval for this course of action, I will subsequently pursue it this end.


PP ARCHIE HAMILTON
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