

## Misperceptions v. Facts

- 1 **Eleanor made expenses claims that she should not have made**  
**Fact** – Eleanor has never claimed for furniture, gardening, household items or food. She has only ever claimed for mortgage interest and service charge. All her claims were properly documented.  
Sir Thomas Legg wrote to Eleanor “I have not identified any payments made to you under the ACA ... which I consider call for any repayment.... My conclusion is that no action is required from you in this matter”. Sir Thomas required repayments from over 400 other MPs.
- 2 **Eleanor “said one thing to Parliament and another to the tax man”**  
**Fact** –The Additional Costs Allowance can be claimed against either home. The tax rules specifically state that designation of a home as main home for Parliamentary purposes does not mean it is main home for tax purposes. Definition of main home for tax purposes is not a matter of choice, it is a matter of fact.
- 3 **Eleanor had tried to keep her expenses a secret because she had something to hide**  
**Fact** – Eleanor published her expenses in the local paper in July 2008, a whole year before the subject hit the headlines. All her claims are now regularly published in full.
- 4 **Eleanor voted in the House of Commons to keep expenses secret**  
**Fact** - Eleanor did not vote for the Liberal motion but voted instead for the Conservative motion recognising “growing public concern on expenses and allowances” and calling for disclosure and regular reporting of claims.
- 5 **Eleanor received more money from the taxpayer than she should have**  
**Fact** – If Eleanor had claimed the Additional Costs Allowance against her house in Theydon Bois, she would have received exactly the same amount of money.
- 6 **Eleanor should have paid £180,000 in Capital Gains Tax**  
**Fact** – When a person owns two properties, Capital Gains Tax is only payable on the sale of one of those properties. When Eleanor sells her house in Theydon Bois, she will then pay Capital Gains Tax. The Inland Revenue rules clearly state that just because a property is designated as a second home for Parliamentary purposes, it does not mean that it is necessarily a second home for tax purposes.
- 7 **There are special tax rules for MPs**  
**Fact** – MPs are subject to exactly the same tax rules as everyone else.
- 8 **Eleanor is one of the MPs being investigated by the Inland Revenue**  
**Fact** – The Inspector of Taxes has specifically told Eleanor on 23rd October that she is not being investigated by HM Revenue and Customs.
- 9 **Eleanor paid back £25,000 and therefore must have done something wrong**  
**Fact** – Eleanor recognised the depth of public anger and how awful the allowance system was. In good faith and by way of apology for the way in which the whole system had operated, she paid back a rounded up sum equivalent to the previous year’s Additional Costs Allowance.
- 10 **Eleanor was ordered to pay the £25,000**  
**Fact** – Eleanor paid this sum voluntarily. She has requested that, since the amount does not represent any overpayment or wrongful payment of expenses, Sir Thomas Legg might consider sending the money to a charity which helps homeless children such as Barnardos.

- 11 **Eleanor made over a million pounds at the expense of the taxpayer**  
**Fact** - Following her divorce, included in her settlement was the flat in Tufton Court. There was a considerable mortgage on the property, taken out by her ex-husband, which once paid off, left only enough money for Eleanor to purchase a smaller flat on the floor above. Therefore there is not £1million sitting in a bank somewhere.
- 12 **Newspapers say Eleanor “flipped” her homes**  
**Fact** – Eleanor has not flipped. She has never claimed a penny against her house in Theydon Bois.
- 13 **Eleanor doesn’t need two homes**  
**Fact** - Eleanor has lived in London since 1985. When selected as our Parliamentary Candidate, she was asked to have a base in Epping Forest. Eleanor works in two places – Monday to Thursday in London and Friday to Sunday in the constituency.
- 14 **People say that Eleanor claimed for double glazing which they saw being installed in the house in Theydon Bois**  
**Fact** – this is simply not true.
- 15 **Money doesn’t matter to Eleanor because she is married to a multi millionaire businessman**  
**Fact** – Eleanor is divorced. Her ex-husband is not a millionaire.
- 16 **Although Eleanor has done nothing wrong, she is tainted by the expenses issue and is, therefore, not electable and will cost District Councillors votes at the next election**  
**Fact** – Eleanor has considerable support throughout the constituency, both among members of the Conservative Party and among people who are not involved in politics. Her newsletter illustrates the wide range of work she undertakes both in Epping Forest and in Parliament.
- 17 **It is being said that four branches of Epping Forest Conservative Association will refuse to work for Eleanor if she is the candidate at the next election**  
**Fact** – the Chairman and Officers of four of the Association’s six branches have publicly expressed support for Eleanor. The Association Executive voted in a secret ballot on 2nd October to support Eleanor.
- 18 **Eleanor has not said “sorry”**  
**Fact** - Eleanor has said sorry on every available occasion at meetings of members and non members throughout the Constituency. She has also written twice to members of the Association saying sorry for all that has happened.
- 19 **It is in the best interests of the Conservative Party that Eleanor should be removed as the Member of Parliament**  
**Fact** – David Cameron says “I want to make clear that Eleanor has my full support. I hope very much that you will go to the meeting on Monday, and vote for Eleanor to continue as your Member of Parliament, in the interests of both Epping Forest and of the Conservative Party”.