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Kris Hopkins publishes “contract” with Keighley and Ilkley voters

Keighley and Ilkley Conservative Parliamentary Candidate Kris Hopkins has published a “contract with the people” containing a series of personal commitments to local voters if he becomes the constituency’s next Member of Parliament at the General Election.

In a letter, which will be delivered to households in Keighley and Ilkley in the coming weeks, Cllr Hopkins writes:

“Ever since the details of MPs’ expenses were first published, people have rightly been furious about the excessive, unacceptable and possibly illegal claims made by some of the individuals we sent to represent us in the House of Commons.

“As the Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Keighley and Ilkley, I want to make clear to you that – if elected - I will not play the system, I will not bend the rules and I will not break the law. Instead, I will abide by the standards that politicians expect others to abide by and will stick to the strict rules set out below.

“MPs’ expenses: my contract with you

“I, Kris Hopkins, the Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Keighley and Ilkley promise to:

- *publish on my personal website details of all my personal and office expenses incurred as your Member of Parliament;*
- *only claim for what is necessary to do the job, not to top up my salary;*
- *not use the staffing allowance to employ any members of my immediate family;*

- *publish on my personal website details of all donations of more than £1,000 to either the Keighley and Ilkley Conservative Association or to me, in line with the Electoral Commission rules;*
- *appoint a local firm of auditors to approve my expenses accounts at the end of every financial year;*
- *make my unedited expenses claims available to local newspapers at the end of every financial year; and*
- *meet my own tax liabilities – such as stamp duty – without claiming them from the taxpayer.*

“I want you to treat this as a contract between us. Confidence in politics and politicians has been shattered for many people because of the scandal surrounding MPs’ expenses. Please be assured that I want to work with you to restore this trust.”

Commenting on his letter, Cllr Hopkins said it was essential that Keighley and Ilkley residents were assured that he would maintain the highest possible standards of conduct if he was elected to serve them in Westminster.

“The behaviour of a significant number of MPs’ across all parties has brought great shame on our Parliament.

“However, for my own part, I am determined that my actions reflect positively on Keighley and Ilkley, the constituency where I grew up, continue to live and care very deeply about.

“I have not entered into these commitments lightly and, if elected, they are commitments I intend to keep.”

ENDS