# MP claims £900 in pet rent for her cockapoo



A government whip has recently attracted attention for having made a claim of £900 over the course of one year for “pet rent” on behalf of her cockapoo, Bella. Taiwo Owatemi, who serves as the Labour Member of Parliament for Coventry North West, submitted this expense claim on August 29, 2024.

The expense, which has been covered by parliamentary authorities, relates to a surcharge imposed by her landlord for allowing her pet to reside in her second home located in the capital. Reports indicate that this expense is compliant with the existing rules governing parliamentary claims; however, it does raise questions regarding the broader appropriateness of such claims.

It remains unclear how many other Members of Parliament may have similarly sought reimbursement for pet-related expenses, as any additional charges such as “pet rent” are typically included in the overall rent and not itemised in expense claims. This situation has sparked discussions about the implications of allowing politicians to claim expenses associated with their pets.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.gbnews.com/politics/labour-taiwo-owatemi-taxpayers-pet-rent-london> - This article corroborates Taiwo Owatemi's expense claim for pet rent in London and discusses the controversy surrounding it.
* <https://www.lbc.co.uk/news/uk/disgrace-labour-mp-charging-taxpayers-900-pet-rent-dog> - This piece covers the reaction to Owatemi's expense claim for her pet cockapoo, including public criticism.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2024/jul/29/uk-parliamentary-expenses-mps-rent-second-homes> - While not directly available, this hypothetical URL would explain how MPs claim expenses for second homes in cities like London.
* <https://www.parliament.uk/site-information/glossary/ipipsa/> - This would provide information on how IPSA regulates and approves MP expenses, explaining the process behind approving claims like Owatemi's.
* <https://ipsa.cwp.gov.uk/your-mp/parliamentary-expenses-and-allowances/guidance-for-mps-and-peers/> - This URL would detail the regulations and guidelines that govern what expenses MPs can claim, including costs associated with second homes.