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Dear Sir

One should be slow to condemn all MPs.

As an expert in defending benefit fraud cases, I see many reasons why people break the law.

If the fraud was to feed a young family, this is taken into account in sentencing. Also what the money was spent on, family breakdown, illness or disability. Character evidence and voluntary repayments will also be taken into account.

For cases involving benefit overpayment of over £20,000, a custodial sentence of around 9-12 months will normally be imposed. A jail sentence can contain a deterrent element and make 'examples' of people.

As certain MP's tour the television studios, and they might remember that they are narrowing later mitigation, when their collar is felt.

Yours faithfully



Rodney Hylton-Potts