

Poll: Most believe MPs abuse expenses

by UPI

LONDON -- A large majority of Britons believe that members of Parliament are abusing their expense system and allowances, a poll published Tuesday indicates.

The findings come in the wake of revelations that Chancellor of the Exchequer Alistair Darling and former Defense Minister Geoff Hoon had been added to a growing list of Labor Party MPs and Cabinet members who have been shown to have taken advantage of generous "second home" allowances.

The Populus Poll conducted for The Times of London indicated that more than two-thirds of British voters believe that all or a majority of MPs abuse their expenses and allowances, with 27 percent saying that all or nearly all MPs abuse the system.

The poll also found that neither Prime Minister Gordon Brown nor the Labor Party received a favorable bounce from hosting the Group of 20 economic summit in London last week, The Times said. Labor was unchanged compared with a month-earlier poll with a 30 percent support rating, while the Conservative Party was up one point to 43 percent and the Liberal Democrats were down one point at 18 percent.

The survey was conducted between Friday and Monday, interviewing 1,512 adults. No error margin percentages were reported.

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