



THE RT. HON. SIR ROBERT ATKINS
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

***“Daily Telegraph”* apologises for the SECOND time!**

May 3rd 2010

Sir Robert Atkins

In our coverage of aspects of MEPs' expenses claims (page 5, Oct 09 – also briefly online) we alleged wrongly that during the European parliamentary attendance allowance period Sep 08 – June 09 Sir Robert Atkins, MEP for the North West England constituency, had given himself two months' extra holiday. Sir Robert has since explained to us that he fulfils all his parliamentary committee duties and on those days when he does not attend the European Parliament – and does not therefore claim the daily attendance allowance – he is working in and around his very large constituency. Sir Robert also asks us to point out that Lady Atkins is a professional secretary who has worked as his personal assistant for more than 30 years and that his trip to the United States on parliamentary business was arranged before his son James's wedding, the private aspects of which he paid for himself and the expenses he claimed were approved by the relevant parliamentary authority both before and after the trip took place. We apologise to Sir Robert for the distress and embarrassment caused.

Yet again the *“Daily Telegraph”* has had to offer me an apology, meet all my legal costs and pay damages.

This follows an earlier “story” in the same newspaper in September 2008, for which I also received an apology, full costs and damages.

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