

5 May 2006

Henry Bellingham MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

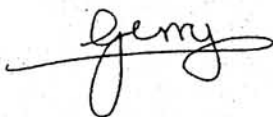
Dear Henry

**Oral PQ on up-fees payable by actors, artists and models**

In my answer to your supplementary question regarding the Stage's recent survey on up-front fees, I made a statement that for the purpose of absolute clarity I would like to put into context to ensure that there is no confusion.

In response to your question I said that there had been "18 to 20 prosecutions of agencies that operated in this way". This figure relates to the total number of prosecutions of agencies operating in the entertainment and modelling sector for all breaches of employment agency legislation. I have been informed the total figure since 1995 is now more than 20. The restrictions on up-front fees came into force in April 2004, I should point out that there have been no prosecutions to date for unlawful charging of up-front fees. As I responded directly to your question on up-front fees, I can accept that it could look as though I was saying that there had been 20 prosecutions on up front fees, even though my answer related to the total number of prosecutions.

I apologise for any lack of clarity that my answer may have caused and I am arranging for copies of this letter to be placed in the Libraries of the House. I also thank you for raising this important question.

*Yours***GERRY SUTCLIFFE****Department of Trade and Industry**  
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