

# Election expenses



**The reason why General Election pamphlets through the letterbox are so scrappy is that candidates have a free postal service, provided that the item weighs no more than two ounces – or 57 grammes now that we are metric**

Would-be MPs are strapped for cash in other directions because the prescribed maximum for campaigning expenses is £4,642, plus a meagre 3.9p per elector in borough (mainly urban) constituencies and 5.2p in the county constituencies with larger rural distances to cover. At national level, however, the parties can spend what they like; hence all the broadcasts, extensive publicity campaigns and general ballyhoo