

**Government must act on MP salaries**

1:00pm, Monday, 11 May, 2020

“After almost four weeks of inaction, the Government must introduce its legislation to cut MP pay this week”, says ACT Leader David Seymour.

“On 15 April, the Prime Minister promised that she would cut the salaries of Ministers and public sector chief executives in solidarity with the private sector workers taking pay cuts or losing jobs.

“Although the Prime Minister should have gone further and included all MPs in her announcement, the sentiment was correct.

“Parliament will be required to pass legislation to give effect to the Prime Minister’s announcement, but, as yet, we’ve seen no sign of it.

“I have been calling for all MPs to take a pay cut since mid-March. I drafted legislation and shared it with other political parties more than a month ago. My bill would cut the salaries of all MPs by 20 percent for six months.

“Given the Government’s inaction, I have sought to introduce my legislation on two occasions, but the Government has so far refused to debate it.

“Last week, Chris Hipkins vetoed the introduction of my bill. The week earlier, Grant Robertson objected.

“The Government says it will enact its MP pay cut plan ‘soon’, but we have heard that for two weeks now. Taking a month to introduce a straightforward piece of legislation is not good enough.

“All parties agree that parliamentarians should share the sacrifices the private sector is making.

“Since the Government has refused to debate and pass ACT’s legislation twice now, it must get on with its own plan.”