

KENT MESSENGER

Real jobs in the private sector please

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Colleagues of mine have asked Parliamentary questions regarding surplus jobs in Whitehall. It turns out that taxpayers are footing a bill of more than £100million for the salaries of nearly 5,000 bureaucrats with no job to do. In total, 15 departments said they employed 4,634 staff - one in 100 of all civil servants - without an official job... More than half of the staff were at HM Revenue & Customs which is employing 2,874 "pre-surplus staff". This is defined as staff "whose post or work is no longer being carried out". The answers from other departments show that staff with nothing to do are described as members of "People Action Teams", "Redeployment Pool", "Priority Movers", "Corporate Pool" or "Career Transition Centre".

This is a disgrace at a time when 1000s of private sector jobs are being lost every week. I am currently in discussions with the south east regional quango, the South East Economic Development Agency (SEEDA) to see how many jobs are being lost across the affluent south east; where my constituents can seek work and what is available; growth areas, etc. This is the time when such a quango - and to date the regional development agencies have cost the taxpayer £40bn - can prove their worth and see if they can really help people in the economic development sense. If not, they should be for the chop too - especially when they are advertising 3 non-jobs in marketing and internal communications costing the taxpayer £140,000!

