

Imagine this scene: you're in the garden enjoying this lovely weather and the phone rings. You jump up, rush in, pick up the phone only to be greeted by silence. You hang up, walk back out to the garden and just as you get to the backdoor the phone rings again. You swivel on your heels, run back, grab the phone and guess what there is no-one there again. Sound familiar?

How about this: your mobile rings, it comes up with a slightly odd number but you answer it anyway only to hear an automated message telling you that you could be in line for a PPI payout. Or it beeps and you get a text message asking if you've had an accident and would like to start a claim.

You've probably had one or even both happen to you recently and after the first couple of times it becomes annoying. So much so that you might even ask the Telephone Preference Service to remove your number from the marketing lists, not that you knew in the first place that you were on them. But then for many that hasn't even stopped the calls.

I have had a number of constituents contact me about this and frankly it is unacceptable that none of the regulators are able, or perhaps willing, to stop it continuing. Some local residents have been sent back and forth between various organisations and bodies that are supposed to be responsible for stamping out this practice.

That is why I am pleased that the Culture, Media & Sport Select Committee, which I sit on, has announced it is going to conduct an inquiry into nuisance telephone calls and texts. All the details are on the Parliament website but I would love to hear your views and experiences so please do email me. Your comments could make a difference and stamp out these practices for the future.