

For Mr Merchant, with thanks

I WOULD like, as a non-Conservative, to say something in defence of Mr Piers Merchant (Sex scandal Tory MP quits, October 15). From November 1 last year until May 1 this year, I spent six months in Brixton Prison on a false charge.

During that time the powers-that-be did everything in their power to destroy me. Among other things, the housing benefit office refused to pay my rent. Piers Merchant went to considerable lengths on my behalf and finally had it not only restored but backdated. If it hadn't been for my saintly MP I would have been left homeless and stranded in spite of my acquittal.

When an earlier attempt was made to dislodge Mr Merchant, he received a massive vote of confidence from well over 90 per cent of his constituency party. Obviously they were just as satisfied as myself with Mr Merchant's performance as an MP and realised that it is on how well a Member of Parliament serves his constituents that he should be judged, not on how he allegedly conducts his personal life.

A Baron.

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