**ONLINE APPENDIX A**

1. **Overclaiming Data**

Figure A1presents the histograms summarizing the total repayments recommended in the Legg Report. Plot (a) shows the raw data which indicate that, while many MPs reportedly did not overclaim at all (e.g., Legg disregarded cumulative errors less than a few hundred pounds), those who did tended to not overclaim relatively small amounts, and therefore, there is a long tail of large amounts of overclaiming. For this reason, plot (b) shows the logarithm of the data, which are approximately normally distributed conditional on having overclaimed, with an additional mass point at 0.

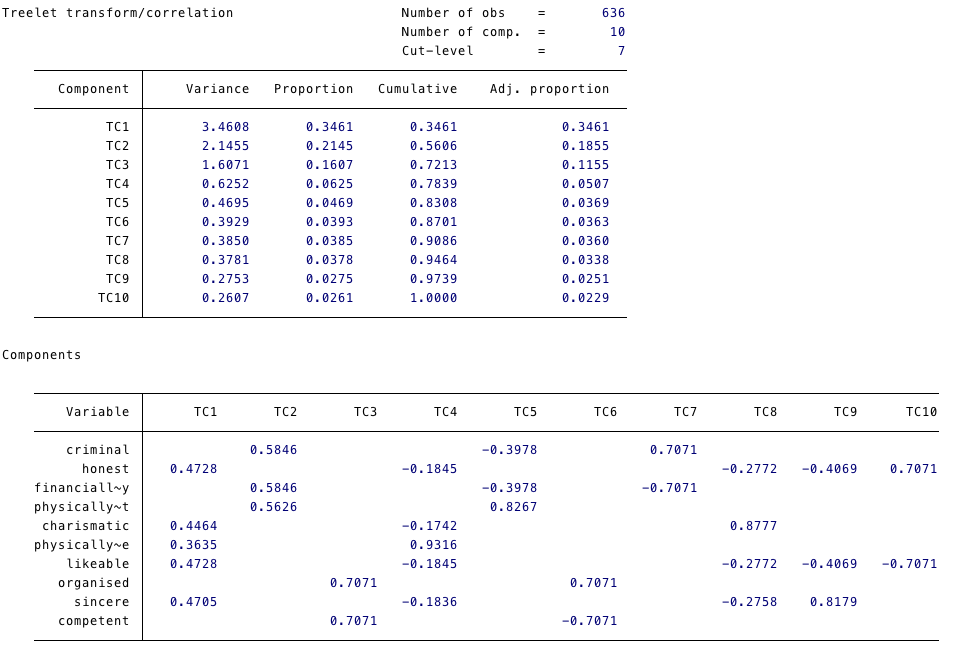


*Figure A1. Histograms showing the distribution of repayment amounts recommended in the Legg Report. Panel (a) reports actual amounts. Panel (b) reports the logarithm of these amounts plus £1. Panel (c) reports the logarithm of these amounts for the subset who overclaimed a positive amount. See text for further details.*

1. **Further TT Results**



*Figure A2: Screeplot of the variances of each component identified by the TT. There are three components with variances greater than 1 (Attractiveness 3.46, Criminality 2.15, Competence 1.61). The variance of the fourth factor was 0.63.*



*Figure A3: Details of variances of each component and their loadings.*

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*Figure A4: Bootstrap test of stability of factor structure. The results show that the three identified factors, have the same loading and sign pattern for all 1000 bootstrap replicates. This suggests that the identified factor structure is robust to excluding subsamples of MPs.*

1. **Latent Factors**



*Figure A5. Scatter plots showing the unconditional relationship between standardized values of each of the three latent factors and (log) overclaiming. The dashed line is a non-liner (LOWESS, bandwidth=0.75) fit for all MPs. The solid line shows the relationship amongst only those MPs who overclaimed. The dotted line is the fit estimated on only White male MPs. The histogram on the top of the plot region describes the distribution of each factor, and the histogram on the righthand side shows the distribution of (log) overclaiming.*

In Figure A5, we plot the natural logarithm of (one pound plus) [[1]](#footnote-1) how much MPs overclaimed against each of the (standardized) latent factors. Thus, Panel (a) shows the unconditional relationship between *Attractiveness* and overclaiming, and Panels (b) and (c) do the same for *Criminality* and *Competence* respectively. Looking first at Panel (a), each MP’s attractiveness factor score is plotted against the (log of) the repayment they were required to make. The mass of points on the x-axis reflects that 340 of the 636 MPs had a required repayment of 0. Looking across all three panels we can see that in each case the unconditional relationship between appearance and overclaiming is not immediately obvious.

This can also be seen by inspecting the dashed line in each panel which shows a non-linear (LOWESS) fit of overclaiming against factor scores.[[2]](#footnote-2) The solid line is the same; but it is estimated only on MPs who overclaimed. As a first step in controlling for differences in ethnicity and gender the dotted line reports the fit estimated only for white male MPs. In Panel (a), the dashed line suggests that those with attractiveness scores more than one SD below the mean were less likely to overclaim. But, there is less evidence of any unconditional relationship between attractiveness and overclaiming amongst other MPs. This may also be seen in the relatively flat solid curve. Looking at Panel (b) we see a similar pattern. Those MPs whose criminality scores are more than one SD below the mean tended to overclaim more, but there is little evidence of any relationship amongst other MPs. In Panel (c), the pattern is a different. Here, the more competent appearing MPs tended to overclaim more, both above and below the mean. The solid line differs in that it suggests that amongst over-claimers those with Competence scores more than one SD below the mean also tended to overclaim more. In sum, the unconditional relationship between all three factors and overclaiming suggests that overclaiming is higher amongst more attractive, less criminal, and more competent appearing MPs.

1. **Construction of Seniority**

As described in the main text we calculate Seniority as the sum of time spent in each government or opposition post weighted by the seniority of that post, i.e. S=. We use, an arbitrary but natural set of weights weighting function where takes value 5 for Prime Minister, down to 0 for a parliamentary under secretary. Specifically, = 4 for the great offices of state, = 3 for other secretary of state positions, = 2 for minister of state, = 1 parliamentary secretary. Opposition roles are 1 lower in every case. This means that while almost no amount of time in any other role is the counted the same as a year as prime minister, there is a gentler tradeoff at less senior positions. Moreover, note that as the prime-minister is excluded from our analysis the choice of that weight does not affect any calculation.

1. **Example Rating Task**

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*Figure A5: Screenshot of the online survey used to obtain trait ratings of each MP.*

1. We add one pound because the logarithm of 0 is undefined. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. We use the conventional bandwidth of 0.75. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)