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- Standards Committee -

Fr on behalf of Inquiry
Subject: FW: MP expenses

-----Original Message-----

From: [mailto:
Sent: 26 April 2009 13:23
To:
Subject: MP expenses

Hi,

I write as a Tory, but I think that MPS need to be seen to be clean, and, perhaps because far too many of them are lawyers, (a breed that all too often confuses following rules with having morals), this is something they have failed to do.

So some nice simple rules are needed.

Rules that even my 5 year old would understand.

Suggestions:-

1) Second Homes - nothing for MPs who live within a reasonable commute - e.g. within 10 miles of a Tube Station.

Other MPs - flat rate allowance that covers renting a nice 1 bed flat within Central London.

Say £2000 a month at the moment.

MPS can buy their own furniture, Internet, porn etc. These sums are pretty trivial in context of their income.

If they choose a place that costs £1500 then they have £500 for extras. If they choose a place that costs £2500, the difference is their problem.

MPS OWNING SECOND HOMES - get nothing. This about being seen NOT TO BENEFIT from the public purse. (Logically of course it makes no difference whether the MPs rent or mortgage is subsidised, but this is an issue of public confidence).

2) Staff and Office expenses

These should be centralised and paid for centrally, as if they were managers within an organisation.

Family Members should be banned from being paid staff. (Again, for reasons of public confidence).

Call it the Central Office.

3) Everything should be receipted.

Central Office will refund out of pocket expenses where reasonable, if receipted.

Apply rules that would be applied to a business. The Inland Revenue would be glad to supply details. This would make interesting reading re food and entertaining.

4) Pay - should be more like £80,000pa.

Regards

I Dickson,

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