

- Standards Committee -

28

From: 28 April 2009 14:47
To: Inquiry
Subject: Feedback

Hello

I understand that you are interested in hearing from members of the public regarding how MPs should be rewarded. There are several points I would like to make and some follow up suggestions which are outlined below.

Suggestions for changes to existing arrangements

1. MPs must not be allowed to vote on policy relating to their own remuneration and expenses.
2. MPs must produce receipts for all expenses without exceptions.
3. Percentage of MPs to be audited on a yearly basis by an independent body.
4. All MPs expense claims should be available for viewing on a website by the public within 3 months of being claimed.
5. MPs salary to be determined by an independent body with a significant number of members of the public involved. Salary to be reviewed every 2 years for relevance.
6. MPs salary to contain an attendance component linked to the percentage of sessions attended.
7. All staffing (including hiring) and office expenses to be handled separately, not by MPs.
8. Where MP's spouses do work that supports the MP, adequate provision to be made for this.
9. No other member of an MP's family to be employed by the MP in any capacity related to official MP duties.
10. No MP to be employed in any other capacity during their time as an MP.
11. Contract of employment to be signed by all MPs.
12. Any abuse of expense system punishable by loss of job and pension in line with more modern employment practices.

Observations

Trust amongst members of the public of the current system seems to be at an all time low. It would be completely unacceptable for MPs to continue to vacillate on the subject of how they should be rewarded in the hope that the current debate and adverse publicity will die away.

The only option that must be ruled out at the moment is that of "no change". I value the UK system of government and it saddens me to see its reputation being driven further and further into the mire. The longer reform is left the more widespread public mistrust will be and that would be disastrous for the UK in the longer term.

Kind regards
P Weston

This email was received from the INTERNET and scanned by the Government Secure Intranet anti-virus service supplied by Cable&Wireless in partnership with MessageLabs. (CCTM Certificate Number 2007/11/0032.) In case of problems, please call your organisations IT Helpdesk.
Communications via the GSI may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.