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29 JUN 2009

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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DAI DAVIES
Member of Parliament for Blaenau Gwent

PLEASE REPLY TO-

Constituency Office, 24 James Street, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent NP23 6JG
Tel: 01495304569 Fax: 01495306908

Our Ref DD

Sir Christopher Kelly KCB
Chair of Committee on Standards in Public Life
35 Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BQ

24th June 2009

Dear Sir Christopher,

I am writing further to my previous letters concerning your committee's consideration of Members of Parliaments expenses.

I made a decision to purchase a flat in London having taken advice from people in the Fees Office and from people in my Constituency making the commitment that any future profit would be donated to worthy causes or charities in my Constituency and I have reiterated that stance many times.

As you will see from the enclosed Early Day Motion, which was originally tabled over a year ago, I have tried to offer suggestions for the removal of the London residence from the ownership of the Member of Parliament and that is the reason I write again.

I urge you in your final decision to give the opportunity to those MPs who wish to do so to sign over their London residence to the Fees Office and public ownership so that at the end of the present occupation the property belongs to the Country to do with it whatever Parliament decides.

Please contact Joanne Thomas, Office Manager
Tel: Ebbw Vale (01495)304569 Fax: 01495306908
e-mail: daviesdc@parliament.uk

As I am sure you can appreciate the present expenses situation, uncertainty of the future provision of London accommodation and the potentially adverse financial impact on our families is causing a great deal of stress and worry for all concerned.

Thank you for your time and further consideration of this submission, I have no problem with this view being made public and would welcome the opportunity to discuss my views in person with your Committee.

Yours sincerely

Dai Davies MP

EDM

Members' accommodation and public ownership

That This House believes the House of Commons debate on the 3rd of July on the Members Estimates Committee report on Members pay, expenses and accommodation unfortunately did not arrive at a solution that will gain public support for the way in which the Additional Cost Allowance is to be allocated in the future; further notes that there are already 415 Honourable Members of Parliament with an existing mortgage the interest part of which is paid by the Finance Department of this House, and therefore from the public purse; and believes that whole sale ownership by the Country of these properties is preferable but if this cannot be achieved then Honourable Members within the group of 415 should be allowed to voluntarily sign over their mortgages to the ownership of this House; and that an Allocation Officer should then be appointed to ensure that these nationally-owned properties should be allocated on a needs basis.



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Member of Parliament for Blaenau Gwent

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Tel: 01495304569 Fax: 01495306908

Our Ref DD

Sir Christopher Kelly KCB
Chair of Committee on Standards in Public Life
35 Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BQ

18th May 2009

Dear Sir Christopher,

I am writing following Mr Speakers statement today announcing a meeting between Political Party Leaders, Members Estimates Committee representatives and Himself.

I am concerned that following a decision by the House to wait for the outcome of your report, which would avoid the situation of MPs making decisions on their terms and conditions, the democratic will of the house is being ignored.

Parliament is lurching from one crisis to another and trying to confuse the Public with death by Committee. The subject of allowances and terms and conditions have been the subject of consideration by the Senior Salaries Review Body, Members Estimates Committee, House of Commons Commission, Modernisation Committee, Standards and Privileges Committee and now the Committee for Standards in Public Life. How many reviews and reports will it take to settle this issue? Please find enclosed a copy of evidence I gave to the Senior Salaries Review Body in 2006, but still no solution.

How can an increase in MPs wages possibly be considered at this time and will it only be for those who need accommodation in London, this would lead to a situation of differentials between those living in commuter areas and those outside that designated area which is an unworkable and unacceptable situation. I have been approached by a significant number of my Constituents who have suggested that the Olympic Village accommodation and Chelsea Barracks be used for MPs accommodation.

Please contact: Joanné Thomas, Office Manager
Tel: Ebbw Vale (01495)304569 Fax (01495)306908
e-mail: daviesdc@parliament.uk

Finally I would urge you to reconsider my original evidence and allow those Members with a mortgage on accommodation in London to voluntarily sign them over to Public ownership and then assess the shortfall of accommodation requirements and then over a period of time acquire the required number of dwellings.

I fear that the way this issue is lurching from one decision to another with no joined up thinking there is a danger that the Public trust and confidence in Politics and Politicians will be lost for a very long time.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this further submission.

Yours sincerely

Dai Davies MP

From: DAVIES, Dai [mailto:DAVIESDC@parliament.uk]
Sent: 30 October 2006 17:50
To: Dawson Alan (Mr AE) OME
Subject: Review on Parliamentary Pay

Dear Mr Dawson,

I am writing in response to your request for Members comments on pay and allowances.

In terms of rates of pay, coming from one of the most deprived areas of the Country the value placed on my salary of sixty thousand pounds is about 4 times the average wage of my constituents so I have no issue with my income. The only question I would ask is has a comparison been carried out in terms of actual take home pay of someone earning forty thousand pounds on 22% tax or someone on sixty thousand pounds paying 40% tax.

On the question of expenses, staffing expenses are more than adequate, Office and Office equipment expenses are adequate, The allowance for living in London is only just adequate.

The questions I have are, If I fail to use my full Office or London living allowance can I carry them over into the next year and if there is any money left over why cant it be given to worthy causes in our Constituencies.

Instead of each member searching for somewhere to live and some making a significant profit on this potential purchase, why doesn't Parliament purchase property and allocate a place to stay to each area of the Country that needs it. In this way any potential profit made would go back to central funds.

As an incentive for Members to use public transport and save travelling expenses, monitor amount spent on travel in the previous year then if this figure is reduced the following year the difference could be donated to worthy causes in our constituency.

The last question I would ask is could a sum of money be allocated to Members to pay for Schools to visit Parliament to encourage more young people to engage in politics.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these and any other allowances issues with all relevant personnel.

Yours sincerely

Dai Davies.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

DAI DAVIES
Member of Parliament for Blaenau Gwent

RECEIVED
5 - MAY 2009

*Gloria,
Pls acknowledge and
send off to all members
of the committee
RST.*

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Tel: 01495304569 Fax: 01495306908

Our Ref DD

Sir Christopher Kelly KCB
Chair of Committee on Standards in Public Life
35 Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BQ

29th April 2009

Dear Sir Christopher,

Thank you for your letter concerning my submission on Members Expenses and I can confirm that I would be pleased to have my previous letter and the following to be included in your Committees deliberations and I would welcome my comments being made public and I will indeed hopefully express these views in the debate on the 30th April.

I believe that the only way this debacle of Members Expenses can be sorted once and for all is public ownership and control of all money and assets beyond the respective wage. This would mean that all accommodation would be provided, all travel paid on the travel card, all Constituency Offices rented directly via the Finance Department and all staff contracts, salaries and wage increases would be dealt with by the Finance Department.

I would also respectfully suggest that if the above is not adopted and before new rule a established that Members of Parliament who made a financial commitment under existing options, rules and regulations believing it was with best intentions and in best interest of his Constituency, if they wish to give up the second home, pay any profit made into the Treasury and forgo the second home system be helped and supported in doing so.

I would be pleased to discuss these issues in person if appropriate to show how much it costs to buy a second home.

Yours sincerely

Dai Davies MP

Please contact: Joanne Thomas, Office Manager
Tel: Ebbw Vale (01495)304569 Fax: 01495306908
e-mail: daviesde@parliament.uk



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

RECEIVED
14 April 2009

DAI DAVIES *(MP)*
Member of Parliament for Blaenau Gwent

PLEASE REPLY TO-

Constituency Office, 24 James Street, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent NP23 6JG
Tel: 01495304569 Fax: 01495306908

Sir Christopher Kelly
Chairman Committee on Standards
In Public Life
35 Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BQ

Our Ref: DD

Chris,
Draft response attached.
RA 1414

6th April 2009

Dear Sir Christopher,

I am writing to put forward my views as part of the consultation exercise to review the way in which Member of Parliaments second home is funded and the claiming of expenses.

I have taken part in a number of consultation exercises on this issue and I am still of the opinion that the second home accommodation should belong to the Country and so my first option is that existing mortgages and running costs should be paid directly by the Finance Department and this would start a process that eventually would lead to all second homes being paid for and owned by the tax payer.

This would mean that 415 properties would be owned by the public and remove the issue of second home ownership completely and there would be no need for a London payment. There may be a case for compensation in the short term for some individuals who have invested significant sums of their own money in their second home but the system would be fit for purpose in the long term with accommodation allocated by Constituency and not to individual Members. This option should be put to the vote to allow Members of Parliament to decided or allow the voluntary signing over of the second home into Public Ownership.

The only payment made to Members of Parliament should be their wages. All staff contracts should be held and paid directly by the Finance Department. All Constituency Office rental contracts and the hiring of equipment should be controlled and paid directly by the finance Department and all travel should be paid by the present Parliamentary Credit Card system. No other claims should be allowed including food and subsistence.

I fear that unless it is shown that the second home system is to the benefit of the Country and not the Member of Parliament it will not be accepted by the General Public and if radical action is not taken to change the whole regime of expenses then Public trust in their elected representatives will never be restored.

Parliament must act quickly and decisively to make the system of expenses as simple, transparent and accountable as possible with Public Ownership and Central Control at the forefront of any changes made.

As a relatively new Member of the House I would be more than happy to have my expenses examined and discussed as part of this review.

Yours sincerely

Dai Davies MP