

The Committee on Standards  
in Public Life  
35 Great Smith Street  
London SW1

RECEIVED  
18 MAY 2009

MPs' expenses.

I listened to the Lord Steel (of Aikwood) on the radio this morning. I think he has got it right.

For MPs whose constituencies are too far from the House for commuting there should be a flat-rate allowance for accommodation in London. This might perhaps be assessed as the rental of a two bedroom flat within, say, two miles of Westminster.

I do not agree with a suggestion from elsewhere that MPs should have no allowance for communications. I believe that postage for replies to constituents should be allowed, together with a modest flat-rate amount in respect of other kinds of communication.

One return rail fare voucher, first class, should be granted each week while the House is sitting.

A statement of expenses paid should be published quarterly. There should be no accommodation allowance for a member who has not attended a given number of times in the Quarter.

This revises opinions expressed previously.

C Endicott.

Thursday, 14 May 2009

PS There may be a case for permitting exceptional items in accordance with standards set by your committee.

The Committee on Standards  
in Public Life  
35 GREAT SMITH STREET  
London  
SW1P 2BQ



11<sup>TH</sup> May 2009

re MPs' expenses:

Addendum to my opinions forwarded yesterday:-

I believe that your committee, in consultation with the Speaker, should appoint auditors to report upon the operation of the scheme for MPs' expenses.

I would suggest that the appointments should have the following features:

1. Reappointment of fresh auditors to take place, say, thirty months after each General Election. In other words the duration of an auditor's appointment should not be coterminous with the period in office of a Government.
2. Reports, filed annually in the House of Commons, should be copied to the Speaker and to your committee, and should be in the public domain.
3. Choice of auditors should rotate among provincial cities (with London also having its turn).
4. Any auditor with political links not to be considered.

G      *Endicott*

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Louise Ellman MP

Sunday, 10 May 2009

My opinions:

1. MPs whose constituency residence is more than 20 miles from the House should receive a monthly set sum of £1750 for rental, furnishing and refurbishment of a flat in London.
2. MPs living within 20 miles of the House should receive actual expenditure of amounts necessary for travel to their constituency by bus, underground or taxi. (A taxi should not be an option when public transport is available except for an MP who is entitled to official personal security arrangements.)
2. In addition, free postage to constituents and a set contribution towards telephone costs for calls made from the MP's office. A first class return rail voucher weekly from constituency to Westminster Underground station.

If you think there should be anything more than this please advise me.

It is also my view that all MPs and all parties share the blame equally for an issue they must have known about and not raised.

G Endicott

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ENDICOTT OBE

RECEIVED  
13 MAY 2009

Sir Stephen Kelly

Copied as an expression of opinion

*With Compliments*

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e-mail: