

RECEIVED  
7 MAY 2005

The Secretary,  
Committee on Standards in Public Life,  
35 Great Smith Street,  
LONDON  
SW1 3BQ

South Lanarkshire,  
Scotland.

E98

4/5/09

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: MP's Expenses**

I have recently written to John Lyon CB indicating my concerns about this issue and he informed me that I could write to you as Secretary of the above named committee.

I appreciate that many MP's work very, very hard and that they are entitled to reasonable expenses, particularly if they have to have a second home/accomodation in the vicinity of London in order to attend parliament.

However, I have been quite astonished at the information which has now come into the public domain which clearly indicates that the present system of claiming expenses is unacceptable, unethical and in need of urgent reform. As a taxpayer, I would offer the following comments:

- MP's should not be able to profit from a second homes allowance in any way. If an MP buys a house and finances it via the second home allowance, any profit should come back to the taxpayer.
- If MP's need accommodation in London, whatever is agreed should be at a reasonable cost.
- Could the government purchase some housing which MP's could then use/book as required?
- MP's should be able to claim reasonable travel expenses but not first class, unless there is a particular and necessary reason.
- MP's should be able to claim for reasonable expenses but not items like patio heaters or adult films.
- MP's should provide receipts for everything they claim just like everyone else but who will check them and be able to challenge any claims which seems unreasonable? (bring back Elizabeth Filkin!)

- Who will ensure that MP's are accountable? Is it acceptable for other MP's or interested parties only to be part of an auditing system? Why not include someone from the Taxpayers/ Alliance or some other reputable organization who can be part of a committee/board which can address these issues?

I think all citizens of this country should be able to expect honest and ethical standards of people in public life such as MP's but, with unfailing regularity, we find that this is not the case. One would expect MP's to demonstrate the highest integrity but it cannot be assumed that this will automatically ensue. As Frank Skinner (Question Time – 29/4/09) stated, things are only changing because 'you got caught' and that is why the present situation is so deeply disappointing and disturbing.

Yours faithfully,

E Wilson (Mrs)