

E109

- Standards Committee -

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Sent: 09 May 2009 20:45
To: public@standards.x.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: MPs expenses

And so it goes on with the latest revelations by The Telegraph.

Having read the Issues and Questions paper it strikes me that the current system breaches all 7 principles of standards in public life. Where is the openness and accountability when MPs wanted to exempt themselves from the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act? Where is the integrity when so many are making payments to or involved in financial arrangements with family members? What other profession vote on their on pay rise? How can the Commissioner be independent when he or she is appointed by the House of Commons? There is so much wrong with the current system that it needs to be rebuilt from scratch. MPs are no special case, many other people work in their home area and are then required to attend the capital on business for various reasons. The current system is too complicated and open to abuse.

If they are provided with free accommodation on the parliamentary estate then why not extend this to administrative support. This might actually be more cost effective than paying substantial allowances.

Their constituency is their responsibility and should be regarded as their home. There should be no ambiguous second homes, why? After that pay them expenses for travelling, subsistence and overnight accommodation within limits. Why should the civil service scheme not apply to them?

There is something else which must end - this continual running to the police and wasting their time in investigating alleged leaks of information which should be in the public domain in any event! Embarrassing it may be but, criminal no. This is another abuse of their power.

Mr P

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