

E173

From: W Swanson [W] Swanson
Sent: 11 May 2009 12:54
To: public@standards.x.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: MPs expenses - living arrangements

Dear Committee members

Given the furore arising from the downright scandalous – and, in my opinion, fraudulent in some cases – behaviour of our elected representatives, particularly in relation to the issue of second homes, I would like to add a suggestion relating to MPs living accommodation in London.

Rather than allowing MPs to run their own affairs in relation to obtaining and claiming for second homes, I propose that all issues concerning MPs' living accommodation should be placed entirely in the hands of an independent body, working to Parliament. This set-up could involve either a more elaborate campus-style arrangement containing adequately proportioned city living apartments such as those already in place where I live in the centre of Manchester. They would house all the amenities needed for comfortable, but not luxurious, living.

Another option would be to obtain existing vacant city apartments and have these as MPs residencies.

In both cases, the maintenance of such apartments would be in the hands of Parliament and not MPs. Parliament would be responsible for repairs to the apartment and for replacing equipment etc. A list of all such equipment could be drawn up to ensure that costs are transparent and subject to scrutiny.

I believe this would both ensure that MPs have a comfortable living arrangement and keep the call on the public purse to a minimum.

Yours sincerely

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