

- Standards Committee -

From: C
Sent: 11 May 2009 19:09
To: Inquiry
Subject: MP's Expenses

Dear Sir,

I would suggest that the first issue in the basic principle that, as MPs set the laws by which the rest of us are taxed, their remuneration, in whatever form, should be subject to the same rules as the rest of the population whereby untaxed 'Allowances' are not permitted. My suggestions are therefore:

- MP's should have their main residence in or close to their constituency and not be entitled to any payments in respect of that home.
- Those with constituencies outside Greater London should be entitled to a taxable, non pensionable increase in salary subject to proving that they actually had a second home in London which was not someone else's main residence and on which the MP paid the costs. This would be a flat rate and might or might not cover all the costs.
- An MP obtaining a post which included publicly provided accommodation would have the additional payment suspended six months after obtaining the publicly provided residence.
- MPs should be entitled to a travel pass entitling them to free standard class rail travel or economy air travel when working on constituency or government business. This would be covered by an Inland Revenue dispensation and could be upgraded to first class rail or club class air travel but as a taxable benefit in kind.
- Spouse travel arrangements should remain but not be extended to others.
- Wherever possible meals should be taken at Westminster where, I understand, there are excellent publicly funded facilities.
- Staff should be provided paid out of the public purse, not via the MP, at previously agreed standard rates and appointment subject to central review and approval.
- Other expenses should be reimbursed as at a normal employer and, if not covered by a dispensation, subject to normal tax provisions.

I believe that such a straightforward system would cost less nett than the present arrangements and have the appropriate transparency for the public.

Yours faithfully,

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