

E185

- Standards Committee -

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 11 May 2009 22:29  
**To:** public@standards.x.gsi.gov.uk  
**Subject:** MPs Expenses

I totally understand why some MPs need accommodation in London to undertake their duties.

That said the current system is open to abuse and is completely out of control. They are no longer Honourable Gentlemen/Ladies. The reply that "It was in the rules" does not wash. If it wasn't for the FOI Act, the man in the street(that's us voters/taxpayer) would never have found out about it. The ability to build up property portfolios by an MP is not on.

So what should be done about it.

1. MP's should be assessed as to where their constituency is in relationship to the Houses of Parliament and there ability to travel there. This should be done in comparison to the general members of the public that travel in similar circumstances.
2. Once it is established that an MP is entitled to the accommodation, then that new home is defined as the one the tax payer will support and is held by the public purse.
3. What needs doing in the house including fittings and furnishings should be allowed subject to constraints of necessity and not extravagance.
4. Once the MP retires or is voted out then the property becomes public property to be disposed of with funds returning to the public purse to help fund the next round of MP's.
5. Similar conditions should apply to the members of the Lords although the circumstances are different.
6. An Independent committee, not MPs, should set the rules and administer the system on behalf of the taxpayer and not the MPs.
7. The idea of defining, currently which house is the main or second house by virtual of the number of nights you spend in it is ridiculous. How can Jaqui Smith claim the house that her husband and children live in is not her home.

I am depending on you to sort this out on behalf of the taxpayer and not to the benefit of the MPs. Anything else will be a waste of time.

I wonder who is on your committee? Is there anyone from off the street or is it all the so called "Good and Great" of our society?

Regards

I John  
T:  
e-mail:

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