

E214

From: blackburn
Sent: 14 May 2009 18:13
To: Inquiry
Subject: Review of MP's Expenses

Dear Sir

A lifetime of public service has taught me that the rules and regulations (Codes) relating to salaries, excess rent, travelling expences, gifts and similar financial matters were essential reading for all Civil Servants. I am appalled that similar guide lines are not in place to guide our political masters.

My two questions are as follows

1) Given the existence of such guide lines for Civil Servants developed over many years to counter greed and corruption, yet based on fair principles, why didn't our political masters tailor such information as the basis of a reasonable settlement system for their own financial entitlements?

2) Assuming there must be representatives of the legal profession among the Members Parliament and the House of Lords, in future how will they deal with the " Accused's" arguments that " He/she didn't know it wasn't allowed" or " I'll pay it all back, now I've been caught" for example?

Can we expect a complete new list of excuses produced by defence teams, based on the statements of MP's, which will have the credibility of having been accepted by Parliament as a reasonable case?

Yours faithfully
D. Blackburn

Northampton

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