

E 251

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18 May 2009 11:01
To: Inquiry
Subject: FW: PM's expenses

-----Original Message-----

From: Sir [redacted] White [mailto:s[redacted]@standards.x.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 17 May 2009 11:46
To: public@standards.x.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: PM's expenses

To whom it may concern,

The present expenses and wages situation is not acceptable to the general population of the UK. It needs to be altered in such a way that a greater public involvement in politics is taken into account, and that politicians in constituencies outside of London have proper living facilities in London. It is important that clarity is given to the reasons why the politicians submit claims as they have to give confidence to the British people who are can be considered their employers. It is also right and reasonable that elected MP's are given reasonable opportunity to have a family life.

Having heard the discussions on TV and having spoken to a number of my colleagues and family members I believe that the growing lack of support for politics and the feeling that politicians are "in it for themselves" means that the political process needs to be reviewed.

I would like to make the following proposal for the committee and hopefully put forward.

Accommodation

- 1) That a tower block or tower blocks be built in the Westminster area consisting of partially furnished 4 bedroom apartments. This would allow family members to stay with the relevant political representative when they are away from their homes. All tower blocks would be made to a carbon neutral level. Where possible heating would be carbon neutral, solar and wind power systems would be included.
- 2) Costs of building these flats would be at taxpayers' expense. Building contractors would submit bids for each phase.
- 3) After occupancy a maintenance program would be set up via a tendering program. Before the end of a six year period a new tendering programme would be initiated and the last company would not be allowed to submit a tender.
- 4) The apartment would be supplied with cooker, freezer, fridge, microwave, dishwasher. All replacements would be free of charge.
- 5) All other furnishing receipts would be submitted for claims up to a maximum of the national average of furnishing a second home.
- 6) All heating and electricity would be at the occupiers expense.
- 7) Local council tax would be claimed by submitting the correct receipt.
- 8) Telephone lines and broadband would be supplied, but would be billed at a cost price.
- 9) Cable TV or Satellite TV would be supplied but billed at cost price for whichever package the occupant receives.
- 10) All business work would take place in offices within their respective office at Portcullis house
- 11) All grace and favour housing would stop.
- 12) All downing street flats would be useable for cases of emergency or state visits.

Expenses

- 1) A central purchasing system would be set by a tending process with private companies to supply the representatives with all stationary. This tender would be changed every six years with the last company not being allowed to submit a tender at the next session.
- 2) All computers and peripherals and consumable would be claimable by giving in the correct receipts.
- 3) Travelling to and from the supplied accommodation would be payable via receipt for train fares, or mileage at the inland revenue standard rate. No flights would be allowed as

Message

this is not environmentally friendly means of transport.

- 4) Travelling in the London area would not be covered as the accommodation would be within walking distance.

Researchers

- 1) All MP's researchers expenses would be submitted with the correct receipts.
- 2) All of the MP's employed researchers would be paid for at the countries expense based on the average wage paid to a university researcher. The MP would have to submit a justification proposal for the research be conducted by the individual researcher.
- 3) No researcher could be the MP's sibling, but other MP's could employ another MP's family member for research purposes, so long as the researchers skills are applicable to the research being undertaken and justified in the justification submitted.
- 4) All research documentation (including the justification) is to be made public at the end of the research session and should also include all expenses claimed)

Secretarial staff

- 1) Any family member may be employed as a secretary so long as the individual has relevant qualifications or experience for filling the role. All wages or expenses will be submitted and paid at tax payers' expense,

Public involvement

Presently there is a growing number of reports of the lack of involvement of the general public in the political process. To try and encourage more interest I thing the following proposals. Although some of these items are probably outside the remit of the standards committee I think that following the recent unofficial releases of mp's expenses a total rethink of the political process is required to encourage public involvement, re-build confidence in MP's and allow people to feel they are getting value for money from the elected members

- 1) All expenses being submitted by mp's would be entered on to their website along with the reasons why they are claiming the expense
- 2) All expenses to be audited yearly via the national audit office.
- 3) All research conducted by MP's to be published on the MP's website and deposited at the British library for public viewing
- 4) Recall of MP's similar to the recall system in America and Canada based on:-
 - a) physical or mental incapacity rendering that member incapable of performing the functions of the office; or
 - b) misconduct or misbehavior likely to bring hatred, ridicule, contempt or disrepute to the office; or
 - c) persistent deserting of the electorate without reasonable cause.
- 5) All wage rises are to be voted after being reviewed by the present independent body by a randomly selected statistically representative group of people who are registered on the electoral register. Not as presently done by the MP's. This may need to be done at each general election, The present system of MP's voting though wage rises is seen by the general population as letting as thieves looking after a bank.
- 6) Any alteration to the expenses system is to be voted on by a randomly selected statistically representative group of people who are registered on the electoral register.
- 7) Introduction of proportional representation for general elections.

I hope that this is of some help and would appreciate any feedback you may have on the above.

Yours
Stephen White

Pantnewydd
Cwmbran

This email was received from the INTERNET and scanned by the Government Secure Intranet anti-virus service supplied by Cable&Wireless in partnership with MessageLabs. (CCTM Certificate Number 2007/11/0032.) In case of problems, please call your organisation's IT Helpdesk. Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

21/05/2009