

E259

From: B. Verod
Sent: 19 May 2009 10:55
To: Inquiry
Subject: M.P's Expenses.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am extremely angry and have lost faith in the parliamentary system due to the outrageous behavior of some M.P's, and the inability of the government to take serious immediate action to expel errant MP's. as would be the case for ordinary mortals. My observations and comments for your enquiry may be itemised as follows:-

- 1) Membership of the house of commons should be reduced by ONE THIRD. It is ridiculous that in Norfolk we have FIVE MP's, two in Norwich alone. The House of Lords should be fully elected and reduced in number by ONE HALF. The savings to the taxpayer by this action alone would save an enormous amount of money.
- 2) The second home allowance should be banned.
- 3) MP's should not be allowed to vote for their salaries, pension provision, expenses or any other personal financial benefits.
- 4) Any allowance should be capped and restricted to genuine expenditure supported by verifiable receipts. I would be totally against any rise in MP's salaries (as a means of compensation for loss of allowances) as this would impinge on their subsequent pension rights.
- 5) The range of allowances need to be restricted to ONE all encompassing allowance, with caps on individual items, such as travelling. All claims should be made public without recourse to the Freedom of Information Act.
- 6) MP's staff should be supplied centrally, and a ban on any family member, however remote, from staff employment.
- 7) The policing of personal financial benefits should be done by an outside organisation, appointed by public approval and have nothing to do with Parliament, Whitehall or any government office. Such policing arrangements to be made public every year in the form of a report submitted for public scrutiny.
- 8) With a salary of some £65,000.00 per annum, any second,third or fourth jobs should be banned. Being an MP should be a full time job.
- 9) All MP's who live within commuting distance of London (including all constituencies within London and surrounding areas) should not receive any allowances, or compensation for any subsequent loss of allowances.

The House of Commons Authority has lost all credibility with the public, this cosy club of arcane procedures, with a system of subsidies for food, including subsidised restaurant facilities within the Commons, and laws appertaining to the general public which seemingly do not apply to the political class (eg. smoking bans from which parliament is exempt) only serve the MP's own interest. The whole system needs root and branch reform, and grown men parading around in eighteenth century clothing does nothing to enhance a so called modern democracy. The executive of government are too powerful, with MP's only useful as cannon fodder, we do not need so many representatives. The whipping system, with the threat of de-selection for non co-operative MP's is a tool for the executive, and destroys the democratic process. It is time for wholesale radical reform, without which I fear for the democratic process within the UK.
 B.Verod.

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