

SIR CHRISTOPHER KELLY M P

J. A. Swift

CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE OF STANDARDS
IN PUBLIC LIFE

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Dear Sir,

MPS' EXPENSES

I appreciate that you must be inundated with correspondence from various organisations.

However as a member of the public I would like to submit some comments as per the enclosed.

As a war veteran in receipt of TWENTY FIVE PENCE PER WEEK extra on my pension I am rather biased!

Yours faithfully,

(J.A SWIFT)

C.C MR DAVID CAMERON - LEADER OF THE
CONSERVATIVE PARTY
MR NICK CLEGG - LEADER OF THE
LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PARTY

ENCLOS: 2

MPS' ADDITIONAL FINANCEGENERAL

1. Any organisation can make its own rules but they must be within the Laws of the Land, including Fiscal Acts.
2. The success of any system involving expenses depends upon three major factors:—
 - a) the honesty and integrity of the claimants.
 - b) the professionalism of those authorising payment of the claims.
 - c) the perception by the public that the system is fair and reasonable.
3. In any organisation the simplest system has often proved to be the most efficient and economical. Don't over-elaborate.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Scrap the existing system completely.
2. When introducing a new system if you get the basics right then there will be a solid foundation on which to build the upper structure.
3. Claims for reimbursement of any expenditure must only be allowed provided that the expenditure is

"reasonable, wholly and necessarily incurred" in the performance of the duties of an MP.

4. MPs should be responsible for organising their own accommodation, the actual cost of which to be reimbursed on a monthly basis but up to a maximum of say £1,000 per calendar month.
5. Audit panel should not just be independent, like a QUANGO, but given the authority to vet claims thoroughly and decide accordingly on the level of payments. Panel to comprise of professionals with considerable experience of auditing at top level.

CONCLUSION

If faith is to be restored in politics and politicians the new system must be accepted by the MPs and they must demonstrate by their performance to be acting in an honourable and honest manner.

Any MP who is unable to accept the new system in the right spirit perhaps they would be well advised to apply for the "CHILTERN HUNDREDS".

At no time should an MP be able to make any financial gain from a claim for reimbursement of expenses.