

RECEIVED

- 1 JUN 2009

Mrs C.A. FLETCHER

E365

Leonard Stanley  
Glos.

24th May 2009

For the attention of Sir Christopher Kelly - MP's Expenses

Dear Sir,

The abuse of expenses by some MPs has caused public outrage and having read on-line the 'green book' it is clear the rules have been broken. Rules for allowances should be the same for all people regardless of job. When standing for election a prospective MP knows the job involves working in London in Parliament and in their constituency, which may be some distance from London. This is a full time job and salary should be commensurate with the work involved. So no second jobs or only working part time as an MP and salary should be reduced.

With regard to allowances there should be -

No travel expenses for family members or for the commute to work. Refer Note A

No allowances for second homes. Refer Note B

No allowance for living expenses - paid from salary. Refer Note C

No Staff to be employed by MPs unless paid out of salary. Refer Note D

There should be No attendance allowance as salary is payment for carrying out duties. Non-attendance without a valid excuse should incur loss of pay. Health and Safety rules already require knowing who is or is not in the Parliament building. If MP's generous salaries have to rise (assessed by an Independent body) this could be funded by reducing the actual number of MPs. Why should there be the same number of MPs when Scotland and Wales now have their own Parliament and Assembly - there needs to be a Parliament for England!

Note A - any MP whose constituency home is within a 40 mile radius of London cannot claim for travel to Parliament. Anyone whose constituency is outside this limit should be able to claim the standard mileage allowance for one return journey per week to London when parliament is in session, minus the 40 mile commute.

For example- Gloucester MP - distance to London 103 miles less 40 miles = 63 x 2 = 126 x standard mileage allowance 40p = £50.40.

Note B - every MP who cannot commute on a daily basis from constituency to Parliament may claim overnight Hotel accommodation (with a limit for a 3 star hotel single room). For example if this is £80 per night. Travel up on Monday, return Friday = 4 nights @ £80 = £320. If they choose to rent privately or to buy a property in London they could claim the weekly allowance only for the weeks parliament is in session providing they can prove they were in Parliament on those days claimed. All other costs must be met out of salary. If parliament sits 38 weeks of the year, based on the example above this would mean a maximum claim of £12,160 per annum.

Note C - Household goods, property maintenance, mortgage, utility bills, food, employing cleaners, gardeners, childcare etc. are all living expenses and should come out of salary. If someone else is paying the bill there is no reason to exercise restraint. What do MPs spend their salaries on?

Note D - an office with basic staffing and equipment should be provided to enable the MP to carry out his duties. There should be a limit on the amount available. The MP can choose to have this 'Office' either in Westminster or in their constituency. No duplication of facilities, researchers would be available at Westminster if required. If the MP chooses to have their main office in constituency only use of a room would be provided at Westminster. Staff would be employed and paid for by the appropriate department. Any additional staff wanted by the MP must be paid for out of salary. The local constituency parties may provide additional support for their MP. If an MP chooses to be an Independent candidate they would have to fund any additional costs themselves.

Yours sincerely,

Employed as Cleaner in Charge @ Local Primary School  
Mrs C.A. Fletcher