



COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND PRIVILEGES

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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sir Christopher Kelly  
The Committee on Standards in Public Life  
35 Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3BQ



3 July 2009

*Dear Sir*

When I gave evidence to your Committee on 29 June, I was asked whether I regarded the Committee on Standards and Privileges as having the power to exercise a sanction of withdrawing a Member's right to be paid a resettlement grant on leaving the House. I replied that I would come back to you after taking advice. I have now received that advice.

Resettlement Grant is payable to a person who was an MP and who left the House following a General Election. The authority to pay the Grant derives from Resolutions of the House. It follows that any decision not to pay Resettlement Grant would also be a matter for the House.

The advice I have received is that the House has the power to withhold all or part of the Resettlement Grant to which a person would otherwise be entitled. It would do so by Resolution. Such a Resolution would clearly have to be made before the Grant had been paid.

It follows that it would be open to the Committee on Standards and Privileges to recommend in a Report that such a sanction be applied in any case where the Committee considered it to be appropriate. The House would then consider the Committee's Report in the normal way, and could agree with, amend or turn down the Committee's recommendation.

*R. W. Young*

**CHAIRMAN**

# *Committee on Standards in Public Life*

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*Standards in  
Public Life*

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Rt Hon Sir George Young Bt MP  
Committee on Standards and Privileges  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

8 July 2009

Dear Sir George

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July. I have passed this on to the Chair and Committee members for their consideration, and your evidence will be published on our website in due course.

Yours sincerely

Anju Still  
Business Manager