

From:
Sent: 03 June 2009 22:52
To: Inquiry
Subject: MPs Expenses

Importance: High

A few ideas you might like to consider.

MPs expenses should be "means-tested" against any secondary income they receive whilst being an MP and which by being an MP their income was increased. For example, as an after dinner speaker, being paid more just because the person is an MP or being on a company board just because the person is an MP.

Why should the public pay expense to somebody who is profiteering out of being an MP ?

All MPs should be provided with secondary accommodation along the lines of a Travel Lodge hotel, with a selection of single, double and family accommodation. The state pays for a single room, if MPs want double or family accommodation they pay for it. Furthermore, if it is in one block it makes security easier. This secondary accommodation is only available, state funded, whilst the House is sitting and should not be available at the weekend unless the MP has an important meeting with a Minister etc, otherwise the MP has to pay.

Why should we pay for secondary accommodation whilst when there is no need, when the House isn't sitting? Why should we pay for secondary accommodation for an MP's partner/family, we elected them not their family?

MPs should be charged for their Palace of Westminster / Portcullis House office space, but this should be refunded whilst the House is sitting. When the House isn't sitting MPs should be in their constituency and using their constituency office.

Why should we pay for MPs to work in two places when they only need to work in one, when the House isn't sitting?

All MPs staff should be directly employed by the Palace of Westminster and paid at a standard rate agreed by the authorities and Trades' Unions. MPs should pay for staff based in Westminster whilst the house isn't sitting.

Why should we pay for admin staff within an organisation that isn't fully functional, surely the staff based in the House should move to the constituency with their MP when the house isn't sitting?

The Palace of Westminster should own all office equipment, which should be returned when it isn't needed. Namely, when an MP is unelected or stands down etc. Or when replacement equipment is bought. There are charitable bodies that will refurbish old office equipment who would benefit hugely from this. If necessary the Palace authorities should have a warehouse of office equipment. All equipment that is replaced MUST be returned and an inventory kept. All office equipment MUST be returned when an MP is unelected and an inventory kept. The incoming MP could use the outgoing MP's old equipment until new is available. This will save transport costs and time.

Some food for thought.

yours
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