

# DAVID RUFFLEY MP

SHADOW MINISTER FOR POLICE REFORM



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Sir Christopher Kelly  
Chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life  
35 Great Smith Street  
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4<sup>th</sup> June 2009

*Dear Sir Christopher,*

On the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 you announced that you would begin immediately a review of Members' expenses and allowances. In response to this I wish to make the following submission of views of members of the public who have responded to an internet questionnaire that I have conducted about your review.

I conducted a poll on a survey website [www.telldavidruffley.com](http://www.telldavidruffley.com) between the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009 and June 4<sup>th</sup>. It asked eight questions specifically about the ACA. I fully acknowledge that this cannot be treated as scientific. But it is at least some evidence from those members of the public who have been good enough to respond to my online questionnaire.

I received 128 responses and reproduce the findings to the specific questions posed below.

How do you think MP's second home allowance should be reformed?

**1. The second home allowance should be completely scrapped. MPs should not be given any public money for a second home.**

Yes	72.0%
No	27.9%

**2. MPs should not be allowed to change which of their homes is their main or second home.**

Yes	74.40%
No	25.50%

**3. The second home allowance should be scrapped and the Parliamentary authorities should construct a block of flats that MPs can stay in if they need to**

Yes	61.20%
No	38.70%



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**4. MPs should be given a daily allowance based on their attendance in the House of Commons.**

Yes	49.60%
No	50.30%

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**5. MPs should be given a higher salary and expected to fund their accommodation out of that.**

Yes	31.00%
No	68.90%

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**6. The second home allowance should be significantly restricted so that it is restricted to paying for rent for a second home in London and basic furniture.**

Yes	68.90%
No	31.00%

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**7. The second home allowance should be significantly reduced with a lower monthly 'cap' on the maximum amount MPs can claim for a second home.**

Yes	66.60%
No	33.30%

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**8. Should MPs be allowed to claim for basic maintenance of their second home?**

Yes	24.0%
No	75.9%

I hope that this may be of some use in your review. I look forward to the rapid conclusion of your review so that a new robust system can be put in place as soon as possible.

Many of my constituents have made it clear they expect very serious reform of the completely discredited allowances system. Urgent action is required and must be delivered.

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David Ruffley MP