

Our Ref: Sir C Kelly Review

Sir C Kelly KCB
Committee on Standards in Public Life

4th June 2009

Dear Sir,

Review of MPs' Expenses "OUTSIDE INTEREST"

I am hopeful that your report will look into all issues concerning Members of Parliament and their conduct. This is a welcomed report as all political parties need to regain public trust. We need true transparency in Parliament and we must examine all issues including the unacceptable practice of second jobs that MPs from all political parties currently hold.

I personally believe that to represent our constituencies fully we should be totally committed to being full time MPs. If we don't take the brave step and ban second jobs altogether, then we have a duty to thoroughly overhaul the system and implement changes that will provide much greater transparency and tighter regulation.

The register of interests is far too vague with too little information. MPs with second jobs should reveal in **full detail** the following:-

1. How much they are paid?
2. What exactly they receive the pay for?
3. Full details of who they are working for?
4. How much time their second job commands?
5. Does the second job in any way connect with their work in Parliament?

This inquiry gives us the perfect opportunity to tackle the issue of second jobs. I was offered a number consultation for various companies' way back in 1997. I refused them as in my view members of Parliament are elected to serve their constituents and receive a reasonable salary. When a Member is paid by one of more companies or holds another job this inevitably affects the way MP's perform their role in representing their constituents. The register of member's interests is by no means transparent enough to make people aware of the personal influence that may be placed on the member or the amount of time it takes them away from their parliamentary and constituency work.

In my opinion Member should received an adequate salary and be in a position where it is unnecessary to take up outside employment.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Clapham MP