

12 May 2009

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14 MAY 2009

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 Sir Christopher Kelly
 Chairman
 Committee on Standards in Public Life
 35 Great Smith Street
 London SW1 3BQ

Dear Sir Christopher

As Chairman of the committee looking into the matter of MPs' expenses and allowances, I am writing to express my disgust at the ongoing revelations about these. I am a 74 year old Senior Citizen who worked hard for 50 years and paid all my taxes and who, in retirement, is still paying taxes on a meagre income of 10k per annum. As such, I am appalled that these are being utilised to enable MPs, (supposedly servants of the Public), to enjoy lifestyles way beyond the dreams of many of us who are "footing the bill".

I should like to know why it is considered reasonable for them to purchase and furnish second homes (even third homes it seems) with the aid of public money in order to do a job they have chosen to do. Wherever their constituency, I cannot see why taxpayers should assist them to buy and furnish properties from which they can later profit further by selling or letting them. Our taxes are intended for improving services in education, health, defence and the like and not to cushion the lives of those who are already doing very nicely with salaries of at least 66k, other hidden "perks", and in many cases unquantified income from outside sources such as consultancies. Added to which they have the security of very generous pension arrangements. It must also be true that a lot to them are also supplemented by incomes from other family members.

I find their claim that they "have done nothing wrong" an insult to my intelligence. I consider the whole concept of second homes a non-starter and should be replaced by Parliament owning and renting out furnished apartments to MPs during their term of office. If these are not considered acceptable by them, then the provision of a second home should be their responsibility alone and nothing to do with the taxpayer.

It is obvious that the current concessions are in numerous cases being abused and are attracting the wrong kind of person to enter politics. Election polling figures are likely to be severely affected as a result of these revelations. Your committee now has the chance to rectify the situation and make this serious and responsible job an honourable and respected profession which puts duty to the Public and the Country before personal gain. We urge you to take the action necessary to bring this about.

Yours faithfully

D. Evinston (Mico)