

Guest House Accommodation

RECEIVED
13 JUL 2009

Dear Sirs

Date 8 7 09

EG94
Act

Members Expenses

With reference to the above and a letter I have received from Dorian Gerhold it has been suggested that I forward my views to your office.

In my original letter to Mr Gehold I suggested that MP's expenses should be brought into line with the Construction Industry who use operate under a joint agreement on allowances. A copy of this letter is enclosed.

Further to this (and I would plead ignorance at this point) that any panel or decision makers who set the allowances for MP'S should in part have lay members. I.E not long serving civil servants, not Colonel Handlebar Moustache (Retired) MBE or those who have been farmed out from other Governmental posts to see out their retirement but some people who represent the man on the Clapham Omnibus. In this way some credibility and control over our MP's and their decisions may be restored.

Yours Faithfully

P. ~~Want~~

Guest House Accommodation

Attn Mr Dorian Gerhold

Dear Sirs

Communications Allowance

With reference to your letter dated 12 6 09 to Tim Farron MP and as a constituent of Mr Farron I would like to take up your invitation in giving my comments on MPs allowances. These comments are not made with any party political bias but as a card carrying tax payer.

Many of the stories currently circulating in the press about the sums claimed by MPs are to some extent media hype and not all MPs are on the fiddle (perceived or otherwise) and in any occupation there will always be those who will bring that profession into disrepute.

I would suggest that many of the expenses being claimed although "within the rules" lack any form of moral backbone given what any other employee could claim for from his employer. After all, it is we the tax payer who decides if a particular person is to represent us, it is our tax that pays their salary and it is we who decide if they are doing a good job or not. And come an election it is we who decide their fate. We, therefore, are the employer, they the employee and as such it is we who should have the input in deciding the rules and not MP's.

The particular area of expenses I would like to see changed is what can be reasonably claimed when living away from home in the pursuit of their job. Over the years these have been moulded by MPs with little regard to those who are actually footing the bill. There needs to be a new model to work to and the existing "rules" totally dispensed with.

Such a model exists within the construction industry and has worked well enough for many years and this is the National Agreement for the Engineering and Construction Industry (NAECI see www.ecia.co.uk). Within this agreement, if an employee works x miles from home they can claim a weekly lodging allowance. It will be taken that MPs represent a constituency and it is from that area all their costs should be based. If they live within a certain radius of the construction site (Westminster) they are allowed to claim a radius allowance. I see no reason as to why such a model could not work for MP's. The distances would be based on the distance from Westminster to the constituency and would take not account of the MP's actual home. Where an MP has his main home, second home etc is of little concern to most UK voters. They, the MP's, represent a body of people in a particular area. What the MP spends on their own home is to be funded from their own pockets, just like those many thousands of people claiming a lodging allowance under the NAECI.

It could be that Parliament provides grace a favour accommodation and office space. Thus taking even more controversy from the media and giving the card carrying taxpayer, some security of thought that our money is not being wasted.

The whole area of MP's allowances, register of interests, second or even third jobs outside of Parliament needs to be reviewed and resolved so as to ensure MP's know who they are actually working for and representing.

If you wish to discuss this letter further we can be contacted at the address below

Yours Faithfully

P Want