

St Andrews  
Fife

E704

Sir Christopher Kelly  
Chairman  
The Committee on Standards in Public Life  
35 Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3BQ

2nd April 2009

Dear Sir,

Do you intend to include MPs mileage rates for use of private cars on official business in your wide ranging review of MPs allowances and expenses?

The background to my question is, that until about 20 years ago the rates for MPs and civil servants were the same. Officials then calculated that the rates were too high - there was a profit element so the rates for civil servants were reduced. Meanwhile, MPs voted to keep the higher rates for themselves.

I tried on several occasions while I was still working to question the fairness, or indeed the integrity of this, through my local MP (at that time Harrogate) but without success.

You may regard this as a trivial matter compared to some of the more extreme cases of dubious behaviour of some, but by no means all MPs. Individually the sums of money involved are relatively small but collectively over the years the bill can mount up for the taxpayers.

I am now retired so you could ask "Why still bother"? I suppose it is because it still rankles when there are so many cases of greed and self interest among MPs reported almost on a weekly basis at present.

I see your review as the best chance of this matter being brought properly to attention and sorted out.

I will be interested to hear if you think I have raised a reasonable point or if you think I am just too sensitive.

Yours faithfully,

J D McDougall