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Nottingham.

16th. July 2009

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

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Dear Sir Christopher,

Members of Parliament  
Allowances Abuse

My apologies for this late submission.

With respect, some thoughts to claim your attention:-

- 1 Allowances for mortgage payments on second London or other properties made over the past five years to be repaid to the Exchequer. Alternatively, all profit on sale of the property likewise to be repaid.
2. Allowances for rented properties in London to be based on the average current rate for 1-2 bedroom properties in inner London Boroughs- excluding Belgravia, Chelsea, Kensington and Mayfair.
3. Second home allowance to be limited to rent, council tax and water rates. Some percentage of heating and lighting say 90% of cost when Parliament is sitting but only 20% when the House is not sitting for more than two weeks. Property insurance of contents to be the members responsibility.
4. Railway warrants. First Class only for the P.M., Foreign, Home Business, DEPRA, Education and Defence Secretaries plus an extra two for each Secretary - one for an aide and one for a security person. Similar concessions for opposition parties. All other Members to be offered Standard Class warrants for travel to their constituencies. This will go down well with the public in general and may even help to improve railway travel for us all.
5. Overnight hotel accommodation allowance to be limited to £100 per night in London.
6. Air Travel. Club Class for the P.M., Foreign, Business and Defence Secretaries- all distances (plus aide and security). Journeys under three hours to be Standard Class for all other Members.

7. Salary and allowances to be conditional on all Members sitting in the Chamber of the House or Select or other genuine committee for fifteen hours per week. This could include attendance at lectures or seminars on parliamentary procedures- say four hours per parliamentary session. Salaries and allowances to be reduced for poor attendance.
8. No allowances for food, taxis, household or garden goods and services. As Members are classified as self-employed perhaps there is scope for capital allowance claims on their personal tax.
9. Members pension entitlements to be reduced to other public service levels.
10. No objection to spouses/partners pay being allowed if they work (essentially this could only be part-time) in constituencies outside London.
11. Parliamentary salaries to be determined by an independent body.

I am sure you will have the public's approval if you do not go native and act like a non executive company director on a remuneration committee with their sycophantic and obsequious tendencies.

Yours sincerely,

G. Robert Hopkinson

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