

P Packer

Ashwell

Telephone C



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Sir Christopher Kelly KCB
Committee on Standards in Public Life
35 Great Smith Street
London
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31 July 2009

Dear Sir Christopher

Review of MP's Expenses

In the light of the revelations and criticisms about misuse of public money by MP's may I please offer the committee a viable solution? This would satisfy the necessity to rectify the disrespect and mistrust the British public now has for Members.

1. To stand for election all candidates must be proven as long standing residents in the constituency they seek election to. It means they would be closely connected to and knowledgeable of local issues.

Also it means they can be justifiably refused claims for any constituency household costs. They cannot 'flip' after election.

This could be introduced at the next election for new candidates and by the end of the next Government's term for all Members.

2. When elected those justifiably needing accommodation near Westminster shall be allocated a flat in the Olympic village. I understand 2400 flats are, or will be owned by the State. The flat is theirs to use as they see fit whilst they remain an MP. They also receive a rail card for use on the new high speed link into central London.

The accommodation is maintained and furnished to good standards by the State.

It means they will have no possible reason to claim for any additional household costs.

This suggestion seems perfectly equitable to both the taxpayer and the member.

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I believe the above would be very acceptable to the British public and would restore the faith and respect now lacking. It means that Members cannot claim any expenses to pay for homes they own. That is exactly how everyone else has to operate.

The great benefit it additionally offers is no more instances of members being remote from their constituency both in terms of distance, convenience and knowledge. It also, importantly, means travel & other costs are minimised.

This proposal would go a long way in reducing the £93 000 000 I understand we currently pay for the privilege of having Members of Parliament.

Yours sincerely,



P Packer

Cc John Bercow
Gordon Brown
David Cameron
Nick Clegg

The Daily Telegraph