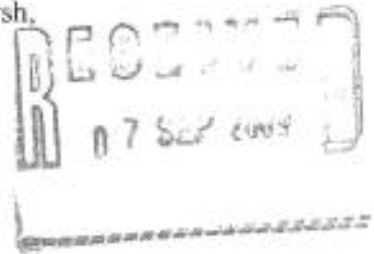


Moreton-in-Marsh

Gloucestershire

Tel. 1



31 August 2009

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

E761

Dear Sir Christopher,

M.P.'s STIPENDS

I understand you are interested in having
the views of the public on the above subject.

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as follows:

2. a. M.P.'s salaries should NOT be compared to other professions

() because:

(i) the other professions' terms of service are far more tightly regulated than M.P.s.

(ii) Parliament sits for less than half of 1000 year terms affording M.P.s extensive opportunity to take second forms of employment.

b. M.P.s have generous expenses and allowances and very good pension provision.

c. M.P.'s salaries are already three times the national average.

- d. M.P.s must realise their chosen profession is to SERVE their constituents and country; it is not to go on seeking high remuneration in a somewhat demeaning fashion.
- e. M.P.s are able to vote with their feet if they are genuinely dissatisfied with their current salaries and seek employment elsewhere. However, I see no rush to the door. Nor is there a diminution in the number of parliamentary candidates for the forthcoming general election (There is a very simple deduction from these facts)
- f. Of course the press and the public are dissatisfied with M.P.s and the manner in which they purport to govern this country. M.P.s must ask themselves why this ^{is} so. Clearly they often do not listen to public opinion. The corporate intelligence and strength of public opinion is far in excess of 645 M.P.s
- g. M.P.s have never had it so good and this

is illustrated by ^{the} ~~the~~ comfortable club like atmosphere at Westminster.

2. In my organization performance is a major factor in assessing reasonable reward. I hope your committee will feel able to consider this factor. The performance of Parliament over the past two decades has certainly not been of the highest quality as illustrated by:

- (i) Two highly suspect wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Wars having to be fought with a comparatively small Army, now clearly overstretched, and ill equipped for the type of warfare involved.
- (ii) Integration into a European union in the face of considerable public opposition. This highly expensive integration being carried out to the detriment of public services in U.K.
- (iii) A slack immigration policy which is causing the rise of extreme right wing parties in this country. And affecting adversely the house market.

- (iv) A failure to control the banking system which has resulted in a huge and unprecedented national debt in practice.
- (v) A failure to produce sufficient prisons to house those the courts sentence to imprisonment.
- (vi) A managerial shortage of Police on our streets which not only leads to crime but also the fear of crime.
- (vii) Constant meddling with education and schools to the chagrin of teachers and others trained to be educators.

I could go on ---.

3. To conclude:

- a. M.P.s should not set their own salaries or allowance levels or any upgrading mechanism for them. Each should be set by a public body outside Parliament that has taken cognizance of public opinion; if this is not done the salaries of M.P.s will continue to fall to a level even lower than it is at present.

- b. It would be perfectly reasonable for an annual upgrading mechanism for M.P.'s salaries to be that granted to public sector employees.
- c. M.P.'s salaries should not be compared to those of other professions for the reasons I've given you (para 2.a.)
- d. The lobbyist for all M.P.'s must be to serve both their constituents and this country. Too many have no such purpose.
- e. M.P.'s should have expenses and allowances at a reasonable level. These should comprise:
- (i) Staff costs at Westminster
 - (ii) Office running costs at Westminster
 - (iii) 1st class travel costs while on duty
(but not for wives, or children)
 - (iv) second home allowance for M.P.'s whose constituencies are outside London limited to no more than £10K p.a.
(The present allowance whereby M.P.'s use tax payers money to buy large second homes in their constituencies is wrong and I hope

Your committee will recommend is stopped
at once)

- f. M.P.'s current stipend of £65K p.a. is perfectly adequate and I hope your recommendations will conclude accordingly when their expenses, allowances, pensions and opportunities for second jobs are taken into account.
- g. The performance of M.P.'s is a factor I hope you will take into account. There's in the last two decades can only be described as lamentable.

Thank you for giving members of the British public the opportunity to send their views to you.

Yours sincerely

B.

HENDERSON

