

I hope that this is a reasonable use of your e-mail address!

I would like to add my thoughts on the reported abuse of MPs expenses.

I have been in the Armed Forces for nearly 36 years and am required to submit all expense claims for approval, with receipts. This should be an absolute requirement for all public servants, whether appointed or elected.

I believe that the rules governing claims for expenses by MPs are perfectly sound already, with the only demonstrable pitfall being the propensity of these individuals to display an absolute lack of integrity. What has happened, on a grand scale, is theft. If I were to have claimed anything like what has been shown to have been claimed by many of our elected representatives, I would be in prison already and would certainly have been dishonourably discharged from HM Forces.

I believe that those who have claimed and accepted money to which they are not entitled should face the criminal justice system, although I have little doubt that they will be subject to no such thing. I trust government and the "system" so little, that I am convinced that this will be seen as something that must be dealt with in camera, so that Whitehall is not embarrassed.

I hope that I have libelled no individual in this e-mail, although I believe that all those who have seen fit to steal from the Exchequer should be exposed with the greatest vigour. You will, no doubt, be subject to rules that will not allow this.

I wish you well in your endeavours, but please accept that the public has all the rights in this matter.

N Howes

GOSPORT