

Dear Sir

I wish to contribute to the current debate on MPs expenses, specifically the costs relating to a second home.

The solution is simple - treat MPs like the private sector. If an MP lives outside their constituency then after they have been elected give them the opportunity to move house either to within their constituency or within commuting distance; removal expenses can be paid (estate agents, legal fees, stamp duty, removal van, etc.) and a one off taxable cash payment can be made (£10/15,000) to cover incidentals (carpets, curtains, etc.). If the MP decides not to move then any costs incurred travelling to their constituency are paid by the MP. When someone in the private sector gets a new job/position and they have to relocate this is what happens (I should know, I have relocated three times). If the MP doesn't want to move and can't commute to their constituency then don't stand for that seat - I don't apply for any jobs that I can't do due to location. The new home (or their original home if they choose not to move) is the MP's primary address. All MPs whose constituencies are more than 50 miles away from Westminster have the right to a two bed room flat within a 10 mile radius of Westminster - these flats will be government owned and provided rent free and will be furnished by the government (blocks of flats could be acquired) who will cover all the maintenance costs, utility bills, etc; these flats can be used by different MPs as and when MPs lose/win their seats. If the MP's constituency is within the 50 mile radius of Westminster then the MP can commute like many other people (including myself for four and a half years) - on the odd occasion that they work late then they can stay in a hotel on expenses (just like the private sector) or go home of course. If the MP is elected for a seat within the 50 mile radius but chooses to live further away then that is their choice and no government flat is provided. The MPs have no need to claim any individual expenses because everything is paid for directly by the government and if they don't like what is offered then they can make their own arrangements at their own expense. The government own the properties so any capital gain is for the benefit of the tax payer.

Sorry the above is a little long winded but it is straight forward really and if everyone that stands for the next Parliament knows the rules in advance then no one can complain and you should only stand for a seat where you are comfortable with these arrangements.

Thank you for your consideration

Yours sincerely

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