

To Sir Christopher Kelly, Chairman, Committee on Standards in Public Life.

Dear Sir Christopher,

I believe that the practice of M.P.s employing family members, especially spouses, at public expense as secretaries and assistants, should be stopped. It not only leads to corruption as it is extra income for the M.P. and his family, but also militates against the post being filled by the most efficient people. Moreover the MP will not risk family or marital breakdown or discord by sacking or reprimanding a spouse if he or she does not work properly.

I suggest that each Parliamentary Constituency should have permanent civil servants assigned to it who do not change with the MP. This would not only give the taxpayer better value for money, but would also prevent the abuses I have described, which are now so prevalent.

Yours sincerely,

T Longman