

In the matter of the expenses and allowances paid to MPs in the course of the discharge of their duties, I would offer one over-riding consideration. This is that by no such payments shall the recipient gain either by a direct financial benefit or by the purchase and thereafter the retention of goods. In this latter I have in mind the furnishing of the second home, and the retention of all goods purchased, I include in this consideration the major item of real estate. That an MP has previously been able to accrue material goods in this fashion at public expense, I regard as absolutely scandalous.

Perhaps this indignation is heightened by my experience in my 35 years in the public service with the UKAEA. Expenses were scrupulously examined and kept at a level appropriate to the duties involved. We gained nothing from them, in fact it was frequently necessary to cut our coats etc..

I would suggest that allowances as paid to Civil Service Principals, or perhaps Senior Principals, would be quite adequate.

The matter of the replacement of the "Second Home" is perhaps more complex, but the accommodation required should not be at the level of a luxury penthouse flat, but a comfortable working office/flat away from home. Better still would be standard HMG-owned property, reserved for each qualifying constituency, provided at no cost to the MP, unless he/she wished to install their own goods, paid for by themselves.

Just my brief thoughts, but echoed by very many members of an outraged public.

I look forward to your response.

My best regards

R Phillips

NEWBURY