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D Neilson

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Sir Christopher Kelly

Dear Sir

With regard to the task you have been charged with to reform MPs' allowances in connection with their second homes, I have long wondered why the suggestion I make here could not be implemented.

Mortgage interest for second homes is funded by HM Treasury, as are the allowances to run them. It seems obvious that when these properties are sold, HM Treasury should receive the total amount it has invested, and not the MP.

This is the system by which shared-ownership property is run. It is a perfect exemplar of a system which has been running for over 20 years and most recently aimed at key workers who need to live near their work. If members of the public (and Government of every colour promotes shared-ownership enthusiastically) are not allowed to keep the proceeds of Government granting, then there is no reason why MPs should benefit otherwise.

Thus the means of 'making money out of the system' is removed at a stroke.

Yours faithfully

D Neilson