

K D M Barr

Argyll

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The Secretary
Committee on Standards in Public Life
35 Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BQ

Dear Secretary,

I have sent the following suggestions to the leaders of the three main parties but send it to you as Sir Christopher has said he wished to hear from anyone with their opinions.

May I be so bold as to suggest a solution to the problem of MP's seeming to have their noses in some sort of expenses and allowances trough.

Hopefully by 2012 a large complex of accommodation will have been built in the Olympic village when the event is over surely it would be a good idea to convert some or all of the accommodation for the use of out of town MPs. Keeping the whole or relevant parts of the complex in state ownership and having it maintained by the state. In this way you avoid any possibility of MP's misclaiming for second homes and profiting at the tax payers expense when they come to sell them on leaving office.

Furthermore would it not be better that all travel to and from constituencies was provided by a warrant issued by the Civil Service and that all MP's staff were provided and paid from within the ranks of the service. Local constituency offices should be state owned and staffed and used by the incumbent constituency MP of whatever party.

If you are serious about cutting Whitehall costs then may I suggest that a new professional contracts department be set up to set and monitor contracts for all departments as it is done in large industrial companies. This I submit would cut billions of pounds of wasted tax payers money being lost through inept contracts and contract monitoring by inexperienced civil servants.

You only have to look at the MOD's record and the disaster of the Holyrood parliament building to see where I am coming from.

Yours sincerely

K D.M.Barr