

The use of public money to subsidise MPs second homes seems to be fraught with difficulty as long as it is predicated upon direct financial subsidy to MPs.

In Berlin a few years ago I came across a purpose-build block of flats near the Reichstag which is the accommodation for German MPs.

Surely the solution would be to have a purpose build block of good quality accommodation near the Houses of Parliament for MPs from outside London to live in.

This would enable them to have serviced housing near their workplace and there are none of the implications of misuse of money for household items, services and mortgages, not to mention MPs' ability to realise a capital gain on the second home at public expense.

The cost of servicing centralised accommodation would be lower because of economies of scale and the public would retain any capital gain in the property. It would also reduce security costs.

MPs who chose to live in their own housing, would then have to bear the full cost themselves.

I would be grateful if the Inquiry into MPs' expenses could consider this suggestion.

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