

Dear Sir Christopher,

I have been appalled at the lack of integrity and honesty currently shown by Members of Parliament with regard to their expense claims and distraught with the ineptitude of the system to ensure these accounts are scrutinised correctly. Although there are always two sides to any story surely the whole system must now cease. However I firmly believe that further waste of public money and a campaign to look into previous expenses will cost more than it will recover, we should accept your findings and draw a line under the matter.

It is a matter of very few years, relatively, that MP's have been paid at all!

My suggestion for this matter would be to cease all expense claims for a second house and create an MP's hotel. This could easily be achieved by converting one of the many military barracks currently being under used in London. The property could be refurbished to a high standard giving sufficient rooms for MP's to stay in. These rooms could be furnished, complete with all the latest technological connections plus have meeting rooms, kitchens etc. The staff levels would be kept at a reasonable level and security maintained. All of this while initially costing the government and hence the taxpayer would repay itself in very short order, and there could be no further requirement for expenses and as such no further scandals.

MP's may well object to this but in all seriousness why should they be able to profit from second homes when all they actually need is accommodation to a high standard for a few nights per month. What's the hardship with eating in a quality restaurant with pleasant surroundings completely free? And the cost to the government would be significantly reduced in comparison to the MP's expense claims every year.

If you assume each MP claims £50,000 per year, this equals over £30,000,000 of taxpayers money. Year in year out. For an initial investment of circa £20,000,00 you could create the above hotel to a very high standard with ongoing costs, even at inflated government spending, of less than £5,000,000 per year. If a company was to switch to this system you can be sure the yearly running costs would be much lower. The only unknown cost would be security. The Ministry of Defence could even act as landlord and receive a peppercorn rent from the government.

Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to raise this idea.

Yours,

R Pass  
West Yorkshire