

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to submit my views on MPs and their misuse of expenses and allowances. It is poignant to note that the *Issues and Questions* document, published on the Committee on Standards in Public Life website, begins with the seven principles of public life. MPs have utterly failed the public on all these principles.

The multitude of excuses and denial, along with the token gestures of reparation, have done little to counter public outrage. Rightfully so. Many MPs have blamed the system for its faults, as if the public should not expect MPs to use the system with integrity and moral judgement. It is telling that this 'failed system' was put in place by the MPs themselves.

It is clear, to any intelligent person, that this system was set-up to 'fail' while it remained hidden from public scrutiny. Now exposed, the extent to which the ruthless exploitation of expenses and allowances is endemic to their culture is clear. They first opposed the freedom of information request which has, ultimately, resulted in the publication of their expenses, two years ago. At no point have they displayed the will to be accountable to the public. It has taken a national newspaper to make them so and still many remain in denial.

MPs should face the same punishments, adhere to the same laws and abide by the same system as any other member of this society. A member of the public committing fraud on this level would have to face the law. How is it that MPs are still managing to escape this justice?

I am astounded that no swift action has been taken to remove and punish those who have so clearly gained from a position of power and unaccountability. It leaves one with little hope that any justice will be done.

Yours sincerely,

D Weir.