

20 May 2009

I beg to submit that MP's expenses not be reviewed but that they be **removed**.

I suggest this radical reform which would prevent any repeat of the Expenses debacle which has angered the Taxpayers. MPs would be seen as on a level playing field with their constituents in having to deal with the Inland Revenue for tax avoidance for genuine expense costs substantiated with receipts. This would show the Taxpayers of this country that there is not a bottomless pocket to pick. It would also generate a more frugal use of the MPs income. All of which would be taxed as is the average taxpayer. Even quite generous increases to salary would be completely recovered by the current level of abuse these "honorable Gentlemen & Ladies" have shown. The undernoted is a basis on which such a system could be investigated and fine tuned to see MPs get a full and adequate salary for their position but curtailed on the abuse which now exists. I further suggest this problem (MPs Expenses) is in need of a complete revamp and not a simple "review" which will not pacify the thousands of aggrieved Taxpayers. Otherwise it will end up as a typical "temporary fix" which will be reviewed and amended as the years unfold to reclaim the excessive expense allowances that operates at present. I further beg that with full transparency and freedom of information it should not be subject to abuse.

This is a generalisation of what would certainly be seen as a fairer system, and, financial experts could sculpt a workable level of salary which MPs would have no objection to, based on Salaries available in the private sector.

I further beg that the following be a basis for an increase in their annual salary, as suggested hereunder:

- 1.) MPs whose Main Home is located within 50 miles of Westminster received an increase in salary of 25%
- 2.) MPs whose Main Home is located at various areas beyond this area (say every addl 50 miles away) receive a commensurate increase in salary to cover the additional cost of Travel/Accommodation to attend Westminster.
- 3.) The highest additional salary increase to be allocated to MPs Main Home located at the greatest distance from Westminster, e.g. Northern Ireland/Northern Scotland and the Scottish Isles.

I am of the opinion this **radical** suggestion would put and end to the Public's total mistrust of any Government whatever it's colour. To experts, this should not be an insurmountable basis to formulate.

I trust this suggestion will be given some very serious consideration. A Strachan.

19 June 2009

Further to my original message sent (below) I wish to suggest that rather than a review of the MPs Expenses, the committee should consider a full and radical report on the gross misuse of the allowances which have been available to our MPs, and, their abuse of the system whereby a large number have been caught abusing the system viz. the large number of MPs offering to repay sums they feel obliged to offer back due to the abuse being clearly shown up as being abused by the national press. They have proven, beyond any doubt, that the system is blatantly open to misuse and a review will not prevent similar abuse in future. Only by paying the MPs an increased Salary to cover their salary, including expenses, and, the MPs will be answerable to the authorities, as we, the Public and Taxpayers are accountable, to the same authorities for payment of our Taxes less any allowable expenses. We the taxpayers, would then know the limit of costs to maintain a Fair and responsible Government, surely this is the only fair way to show the enraged masses of the Country that we are all being treated as equals in paying our share of the Taxes. This system would certainly encourage MPs to be more frugal and "expenses conscious" and there would be no point in them abusing their Incomes, otherwise they would be depriving their families of a comfortable lifestyle. As I originally said, a **Radical Solution is required**. I am also sure that a very generous Salary Increase would be acceptable to the Public and knowing we are all on a level playing field. I sincerely hope the Committee will give such a proposition serious consideration and one day we will be a "Great Britain" again. We certainly can not justify that title with all that has gone on with our Parliament members behaviour. The publishing of the MPs Expenses in the format used will only enrage the Public further - a "Black-Wash" if ever we have seen one!! The Public need some "Good Examples" to be shown to be evident by our Government. Good Examples would engender Good Feelings & Trust in our Government. I have no problems in this additional message to the Committee being Published. You already have my personal details.

A Strachan.