

Cllr. Mr. S. Pratley.

Mablethorpe,
Lincolnshire.

June 22nd, 2009.

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Sir Christopher Kelly,
Chairman,
Committee for Standards
in Public Life,
c/o House of Parliament,
Westminster,
London.

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Dear Sir,

I am very glad that M.P.'s expences system is to be overhauled and modernised in such a way as to greatly restrict the abuse of the system.

The committee has to tread a fine line between the urg to get a speedy replacement as a damage limitation exercise and the very real need to take longer and get it completely right. The task will not be easy and will also be complicated. Choosing the right ballance of workable proposals that the government and M.P.'S will accept, preferably run by an independant body will not be an easy process and I dont envy you that task. The re-gaining of trust from the members of the public will I think take a long time and to convince them of transpearancy in public life will take a long time.

I have to tell you that I do not know the details of the M.P.'S expences system at all, but what I have been able to understand is that a lot of the problems stem from M.P.'s second homes.

I wish to make what might be considered to be a radical proposal. My proposal if it is workable and long term financially viable is as follows :- Apart from the ocupants of Downing St, put all M.P.'s in blocks of flats purchased by Central Government, preferably rent free with the M.P.'s responsible for all their other utility bills and when they cease being an M.P. their successor then moves in. To help defrey the cost of such a venture M.P.'S would have to sell of their second homes and move into the flats. I am sure that their must be blocks of flats preferably near the House of Parliament that could be used for this purpose. While the short term costs of buying flats would be high, I feel that the long term benefits would far outway the initial investment and would help to restore public confidence in our supposed democratic system. While Rome was not built in a day and this would probably not be a quick fix or jam tomorrow solution I feel that it could just work.

I leave this idea with the committee and would be very interested to know of it's outcome.

Yours faithfully,

S Pratley.