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31 JUL 2009

Huntingdon

Sir Christopher Kelly KCB  
Chairman – Committee on Standards in Public Life  
35 Great Smith Street  
London SW1P3BQ

E735

28 July 2009

Dear Sir

I am writing to you as the latest indication of how MPs intend to obtain money from the taxpayer is reported in today's media.

I am once more appalled at the greed, and at the contempt with which the British taxpayer is treated by those whose supposed integrity, probity and sense of public duty fits them to hold office as a Member of Parliament.

MPs should:

- Have to declare their main residence as their constituency home ( as many MPs do not, ). On the grounds that this is their first job not their second or third, and that most of them only spend 4 nights a week in London anyway.
- That if the home is within an hour of travel to Westminster then they are not entitled to a second home in London – on the grounds that as Tony Blair made Parliament user friendly, the old arguments for London homes no longer exists.
- Any particular circumstances which require an MP to be in London in the evening past the time he could get home say 10.30 pm, then he can claim overnight accommodation at the Civil Service rate of the time and that receipts for this and any meals be submitted in support of this.
- They are treated for pension purposes, resettlement etc as other public servants, probably as middle grade civil servants – on the grounds that other public servants like teachers get half the pensions they do and very little resettlement.

- Like other public servants **any** claims for expenses are accompanied by receipts.
- Any expenses claimed and paid, and all allowances and full salary are subject to FOI - on the grounds that we pay for them and are entitled to hold MPs accountable for what they claim from us.
- As for their already generous secretarial allowance and subsidised canteen and travel arrangements – these should be subject to unannounced checks from time to time to ensure that they are not being abused.

I look forward to your report on the clean up of Augean Westminster in the Autumn and hope that you will be able to restore some faith in the political system.

Yours faithfully

  
L Upham ( Mrs)

cc. John Bercow – Speaker  
Gordon Brown MP  
David Cameron MP  
Nick Clegg MP