

COP001

Professor Sir Ian Kennedy
Independent {Parliamentary Standards Authority
c/o House of Commons
Westminster
LONDON SWIA 0AP

10th January 2010

Dear Professor

MP's Expenses

Along with many other taxpayers I have been angered by the problems which have been revealed in recent months and share concerns about how expenses can apparently be claimed without documentary evidence and under very loose conditions.

I would have hoped that your authority would have implemented all of the recommendations made by the Committee on Standards in public life, without exception and as a minimum standard.

I would think that it is reasonable for an MP to meet all of his or her own expenses in running his home in the constituency as would any other citizen

As far as accommodation in London is concerned the costs of the lease or rental of a simple flat or house in Greater London should be regarded as the norm provided all costs are covered by adequate documentation. This should be taken at an approved basic figure with any excess costs met by the MP. London accommodation should not be a means to make profits or acquire wealth.

As one who started professional life commuting from Southend to the Angel, Islington working normal office hours plus three or four evenings at the nearby Northampton Polytechnic returning home on the 10 pm train I see no reason why MPs within 50 miles of London should be allowed to claim accommodation but certainly should be given second class rail tickets for their journeys

I have mixed feelings about the employment of family members but would expect your Authority, if such employment were to be allowed to continue, to see time sheets and other documentary evidence.

All other benefits should be subject to taxation as is the case for ordinary members of the public but resettlement payments made when losing a seat should be restricted to three months basic salary only

Anything less severe will result, in my view, in MPs being considered as less than honourable which, in so many cases, would be unfair

Yours faithfully,



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