



10 January 2010

Sir Ian Kennedy  
The House of Commons  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2 OP

*Dear Sir Ian*



2. You have been given a poisoned chalice but could I with diffidence offer some practical ideas based on 50 years of public service:

- MPs pay should be linked to District Judges for pay, so that element of controversy will cease to cause problems;
- all MPs should be deemed to have a home in their constituency;
- home to duty payment must cease or be a benefit in kind;
- all MPs within the M25 should be expected to commute like the rest of the community, but if any MP has to stay late he should be entitled to claim overnight hotel costs up to the current public servant limit [£100 for Parole Board Judges];
- MPs outside the M25 should be reimbursed reasonable rental costs within a publicly declared limit. There should be no public subsidy for buying property;
- there should be no public subsidy for family travel;
- just as in the USA it should be not be allowable to employ family members. If an MP needs support the House of Commons should supply that;
- clearly any expenditure of public money need so be supported by receipts [the minimum for Civil Servants such as Judges].

3. I doubt what I have said will be palatable to MPs but they clearly must understand they have brought our democracy to such a point, the fanatics on left and right may flourish and no right minded person would wish that.
4. I have no hope you will accept my views as a member of the public, but I do copy them to the Speaker of the House of Commons to try and convey the real anguish there is in the country at the moment.
5. Please do not waste the time of some over pressed Civil Servant to reply to this well meant letter.
6. Good Luck: Benedictus benedictu [Inner Temple habits die hard!].

Yours sincerely

BT The