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Sir Ian Kennedy  
Chairman  
Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority  
c/o Houses of Parliament  
Westminster SW1A 0AA

9<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Dear Sir Ian,

**Parliamentary Expenses Scandal and Reform**

Reading the Press, you have I understand also invited comments from members of the public as part of your 5 week consultation process.

It is now over 20 years since I retired from a "three star" appointment in a major public industry where I headed up 45,000+ staff after a career to Assistant Secretary level in the Civil Service. I served a number of Ministers from different Parties and it would be less than true to say that in those roles I had never encountered the occasional out of ordinary actions. Even so, I was stunned at the widespread and unprincipled corruption that was revealed during the recent fees and expenses scandal. I can also wholly understand why the staff and Head of the House Fees Office had no strength themselves or at their backs to oppose such pressures and practices.

When in service I was subject to snap checks by the Audit Service and annual Stewardship Reviews in London. If I had been found to have been charging for a non-existent mortgage (help was given for a compulsory house move), or for household equipment at a regular pied-a-terre (sometimes needed for p/t work distant from home), or to be using official funds to pay members of my family for "ghost" jobs, I should undoubtedly have faced immediate dismissal with loss of pension rights. And most likely prosecution would have followed.

Amongst retired senior colleagues with whom I am still in touch this reflects our general disgust. As for the man in the street and small businessmen like 2 of my sons struggling to keep head above the recession's water, the depths to which many Legislators have sunk has destroyed all respect.

Newspaper reports forecasting significant watering down by your Authority of the Kelly Report give our informal group great concern. In our view no revised fees and allowances system can hope to help Parliamentary Legislators demonstrate acceptance that they too are subject to proper control under the Law and so help re-gain a measure of public belief in their integrity if a new system simply contains the seeds of new openings for further manipulation eg by untaxed gains on assisted property dealings, cheating the laws which apply to the rest of the commonality.

Yours sincerely

