



13-01-10

FAO Sir Ian Kennedy

Dear Sir,

I understand from the press that you are reviewing the proposed reforms to MPs expenses rules as compiled by Sir Christopher Kelly last year. Also that you are open to receive views on the matter from the electorate without the support of whom said MPs would not be in post.

I understand that the view of the party leaders was that Sir Christophers recommendations should stand – no doubt reflecting their wishes for the electorate to see Parliament cleaned up following its total and shameful discredit over the expenses issues. No matter the finer points re. “the rules” – what ever happened to Honour?

I further understand that in your new role as regulator you are likely to take a more generous view than Sir Christopher. Surely expenses whether they be travel, food or capital gain, should work on the basis of being “non profit making” – a reimbursement only of approved expenditure. This was certainly my experience as a senior manager in the Private Sector. With respect, this is surely a matter for H R professionals with wide experience in Private and Public sectors to advise upon. The worst thing that can happen , given the electorates total disgust at the behaviour of our elected representatives, is for there to be yet another “whitewash” by a placeman individual. The voters want transparency and honesty. There is a feeling that anything goes in Parliament these days – non elected Leaders and twice discredited non elected individuals given unprecedented powers. It seems that there is no shame amongst these creatures.

Here is an opportunity to START to redress this situation – it will be a tragedy if you do not seize it.

I attach a cartoon currently doing the rounds which sums up how the electorate now feel!

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A E Blackburn'.

A E Blackburn (Mr)