

Copy 6

08/01/10

Dear Sir,

I have been reading reports today about the position your are taking regarding the changes to the allowances scheme for Members of Parliament and the adjustments you are proposing to the recommendations made by Sir Christopher Kelly. Also noted the comments you made requesting input from people who had a view on the matter.

I wish to put on record my strongest possible objections to the proposed changes to both the ruling on allowances for second homes for MPs living within a standard commute of Westminster and to the ruling on Capital Gains made on selling a second home, particularly regarding the suggestion that this be left to MPs to resolve. If I may say so, this is analogous to asking turkeys to vote on Christmas. As a group MPs have shown themselves to be without morals in this area (with some, albeit apparently few, exceptions) and it is my firm view that matters of this kind can no longer be left in their jurisdiction.

Your proposed position on this serves only to reinforce the generally-held belief by a large majority of the public that the establishment will do anything possible to keep itself and its institutions apart from those it purports to represent.

I am not particularly surprised by the situation but admit to being extremely disappointed. Until organisations such as yours start to take a principled position on matters such as these, I and many others will become and remain permanently voluntarily-disenfranchised, by deciding to opt out of the election processes.

Yours,  
Frank Chambers