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15/01/10

**MY DETAILS**

Dear Sir Ian

I have obviously followed, as indeed has my wife, the exposure of the whole expenses situation in the House of Commons which has caused not only anger but dismay by people across the country. As I am heavily involved personally as [REDACTED] and have therefore been extensively involved in canvassing over the past year, I am well aware of the anger that has been expressed from all walks of life.

I merely have two comments to make:

1. Whilst they may have stuck within the rules which are apparently set internally by the House of Commons, nevertheless, what they actually then did was completely and utterly morally wrong. Having run an extensive business ourselves and successfully sold out at the end of 2004, I am of the view that many of us in industry would have wound up in the courts had we practised what the MPs did.
2. My second fundamental reason for raising this issue with you is that their basic salary is sufficient for the job that they do and only extremely legitimate expenses should be paid. For those who cannot commute a reasonable distance, they should be given an agreed accommodation allowance which would allow them to live in London when necessary at a reasonable rate. There are good B&Bs and this should be the level of accommodation.

The reason for my anger apart from anything else is that Westminster ie in particular the three main parties, have simply abdicated responsibility for running this country to Brussels.

Regulations emanating from Brussels are gold plated in Whitehall and we either obey them or we wind up in court or in a worse case scenario, in jail. The Europeans on the other hand, drive a coach and horses through regulations when it suits them and are therefore indifferent to the action of the overrated, overpaid commissioners who sit and design these regulations in Brussels.

This was one of the fundamental reasons why my wife and I sold, what was a successful and profitable business, but where profit was rapidly disappearing because of ridiculous, unnecessary regulations.

Yours

Simon Newman