

28/01/2010

Dear Sir Ian

I would like to add my thoughts to the many thousands who doubtless will be writing to you expressing their disgust with and contempt for politicians of all parties who systematically plundered taxpayers money down the decades. These appalling jobsworths have sat in judgement on their own pay, pensions and expenses and, boy, how they have milked the gravy train for all its worth. They are entrusted to enact laws and make financial judgements in respect of the entire nation and have been very quick to deny funds and support for many less fortunate than they. I myself am a member of the Armed Forces Pension Group which is fighting for the right to pension for all those servicemen and women who in years past have served less than the 22 years required to qualify for a Services Pension. There are many tales to be told of individuals cruelly denied the chance to complete 22 years service by successive Governments all in the name no doubt of prudence in using the hard earned taxpayers money. No such problems, of course, for our own elected members merrily helping themselves to our money. When an Early Day Motion was presented by Colin Challen our MP Sponsor the total attendance by MPs for the debate could be measured on the fingers of one hand, ie 4! All in complete contrast, naturally, when MPs expenses are up for discussion. Witness the Chamber packed to the rafters with the panic stricken faces of MPs anxiously trying to protect their feather bedded livelihood.

I have never known so many people be so incensed by the shameful machinations of their elected representatives. The reputation of the House of Commons as an instrument for the government of the United Kingdom lies in tatters and will not be repaired by any attempt on your part to water down (a commonly understood phrase throughout all layers of the British population) Sir Christopher Kelly's recommendations. Virtually every MP caught in the headlights of this scandal has bleeted "it's the system gov not me". Very well the system must be subject to a root and branch surgery so never again can greedy MPs help themselves to the public purse.

People who aspire to become MPs must do so in order to serve their country and constituents not to profit from them.

Derek Custance