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Washfield  
Tiverton

22nd May 2009

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Dear Sir

Standards in Public Life.

I understand that your Committee is prepared to accept submissions from the public concerning the current investigation into MP's financial claims.

The main areas of abuse appear to be:

1. Flipping - repeated changes in the nomination of primary residences.
2. Allowances and their misuse.
3. Lax monitoring of expenses by the Fee Office.

I believe allowances such as- ie food, mortgage interest, communications, should be abolished completely.

Expenses are to be monitored independently, so effectively this has been dealt with..

The selection of primary residences must be made at the time of nomination, as a Parliamentary Candidate and ought to be their then current residence. No re-election should be allowed during the life of the Parliament and, of course, mortgage payments and interest should be the responsibility of the individual MP. Generally the primary residence will be in the Constituency.

For MPs within 20 miles of Westminster the primary residence should be their current homes with the same restrictions, but they will not be eligible to claim for a second residence or flat unless they fund it entirely out of their own resources.

As a long term measure the State should begin to provide 2 bedroomed flats, reserved for MPs, bearing in mind that property prices are low and there is an abundance of available buildings in the City etc. These flats should belong in perpetuity to the State and rent should be paid by MPs and recovered through expenses.

I respectfully submit these ideas for consideration.

Yours faithfully,

G D Jones.