

Dear Christopher Kelly,

There are a considerable number of issues raised by the question of MP expenses. The one that concerns me is proportional representation which may appear to be outside of the scope of the enquiry.

I, however, think it fundamental. It doesn't seem acceptable that MPs can be elected in a safe seat (of whatever party) and stay there for 40 - 50 years with very little challenge. Whilst democratic in a narrow sense complacency is inevitable and with it the sense of entitlement.

A proportional representation system would make MPs more accountable and more willing to modernise. I thought it depressing when 'Blair's babes' where elected to the House of Commons and they found that whilst there was a shooting gallery for members to practice there was no crèche - and little chance of getting one.

Parliamentarians faced with a less stable electoral system might have been more willing to consider reform of the way they conduct their own affairs.

P Pollard