

27<sup>th</sup> April 2009

Dear Sirs,

As a private individual and tax payer I would like to offer the following contribution to your enquiry.

What is fair and reasonable in the private sector is equally applicable for Members of Parliament. An M.P. should be neither better or worse placed, financially, as a result of expenses claimed.

### SECOND HOME

In the private sector it is regarded perfectly fair, without recompense, to spend 2-3 hours each day travelling to and from a place of work.

Mostly, it is not the employers choice to nominate the employee's place of residence and in any case the second home is only desirable whilst Parliament is sitting.

If a second home is deemed to be an essential requirement, involving tax payer funding, it should not provide the MP with a source of profit.

All expenditure, exceeding £50, with regard to the property should be authorised before payment and supported by receipts afterwards.

Items purchased with tax payer funds belong to the tax payer and not the M.P.

Any expense regarded as unacceptable in private industry is unacceptable from an M.P.

There is no justification for claiming food on expenses - we all have to eat!

### OFFICE & ADMIN

An M.P. is not a business and therefore employing one's own family is, almost certainly, discriminatory: it should not be allowed and current rules of employment should be equally applicable to M.P's. Those seeking to circumvent by reciprocal employment of colleagues family members should be subject to censure.

All M.P's should be allocated rent free office space in their constituency. A budget for Stationery and equipment should be capped at a figure applicable to all. Office supplies to be monitored and paid for centrally.

### THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE

Creative people will always seek to circumvent rules and guidelines: politicians are clearly no different, if not worse, in this regard. Therefore, an eighth principle should be installed.

“Any action which may be deemed to be outside the spirit of the previous seven principles will result in censure”.

R Bly

24th June 2009

Supplementary to previous submission and also for publication

I can think of no justification for payment of a fixed annual pension irrespective of length of service – I am particularly thinking of the positions of Speaker and Prime Minister. There may be other post, unknown to me and almost certainly equally undeserving, that also unfairly benefit in this way.

R Bly