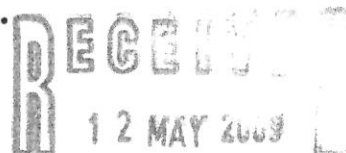


LONDON

8 May 2009

The Committee on Standards in Public Life
35 Great Smith Street
LONDON
SW1P 3BQ



Dear Sir,

I don't wish to prattle on about the questionable moral standards of many of our elected Members of Parliament, ~~as I'm sure you have~~ already received any number of submissions in this area.

I would like to merely suggest a course of action that would put an end to the wrangle over what constitutes a justifiable payment for the accommodation of provincial MPs within the capital.

Surely it would be possible for the Government to start buying up a selection of properties within zones 1-4 in London. There's a large number of new build properties sitting unsold in London that the Government could now buy up on very favourable terms. This way the State would have a sufficient number of permanent dwellings in which to house provincial MPs free-of-charge, and with no ongoing costs, save council taxes and periodic upkeep of furniture and fittings.

Any properties within the pool that were not being used by an MP could be rented out at existing market value and the proceeds retained put towards general maintenance costs.

Over time this scheme would save money and it would offer a permanent solution to this problem. An initial outlay somewhere in the region of £15m would be required, but at least the leases for these properties would be held as part of the Crown Estate, so no MPs would be seen to benefit financially from this arrangement.

I dare say other people would have already made this suggestion, and I'm not even sure if Sir Christopher's remit extends to making recommendations in this area, but the idea of maintaining a permanent pool of London properties for the use of MPs makes perfect sense to me.

Of course, existing arrangement would have to be maintained for those MPs who last beyond the next General Election, but new members would be obliged to choose from the accommodation pool.

Anyway, good luck & if my idea is taken up I'd be quite content to settle for an OBE.

Yours faithfully

M Robinson