

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have recently written to my M.P. Mr. Adrian Sanders, with an idea. He suggested I passed it on to yourselves. So here are the e-mails in question. I would be grateful for your comments.

Yours Sincerely.

T Parkes  
Paignton

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12 May 2009

Dear Mr. Sanders,

in the light of the ongoing controversy regarding MP's expenses, as a constituent of yours I thought I would write to you with what I believe would be a simple & efficient long term idea which would have the double advantages of stopping such claims whilst giving the public a much better service at the same time. I am not affiliated to any political party and have no "axe to grind " with anyone in particular, neither am I a journalist or anyone with any ulterior motive. I just believe that I have thought of a great idea, there may be reasons why it could never work but I, as a member of "Joe Public", cannot think of any!

The current system with MPs trying to be in Parliament and their constituency at the same time, doing two jobs, is obviously not working & leading to public dissatisfaction, especially with the "two homes" issue. My suggestion would be to have a "double ticket" system i.e. each constituency would have two MPs working together. One to live & work full-time in the constituency & the other to live & work full-time in London & attend Parliament daily to represent his/her constituents. At first thought this idea might appear to be costing double the existing system as two MP's would need to be paid. However, I am sure that if proper costings were done this idea could even save money e.g. there would be no need for any expenses to be paid, (except for telephone etc.) as each MP would live in their own house. There would be hardly any travelling expenses as the 2 MPs could communicate with each other as necessary by e-mail or telephone. This would save time as well as money, no more rushing back to the constituency at the weekend (you might even get weekends off!), giving MP's a more harmonious family life & a less stressful existence to boot.

Less back up staff would also be needed as the workload currently put onto one MP would be now shared between two. I could go on but I am sure you have got my point by now.

I would be grateful for your comments on my suggestion and, if you think there is merit in it, I would appreciate you passing this on to those individuals who have the power to take it further. As you can see I am also sending this e-mail to the Daily Telegraph as that newspaper has been so instrumental in breaking this story to the public.

Yours Sincerely

T Parkes  
Paignton

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13 May 2009

Dear Mr Parkes

Thank you for your email.

It is certainly an interesting idea and would certainly save on the travel and subsistence costs the current system for MPs incurs. It would need proper costing but it should certainly be considered.

The best way to take this forward is for you to put your ideas to the Committee on Standards in Public Life. The Committee has been charged by Parliament with creating a new system to eradicate the improper practices the current rules create and they are taking submissions up until the beginning of June. The inquiry is wholly independent of Parliament, so submitting the ideas yourself would be best.

You can find all the details here: <http://www.public-standards.gov.uk/>

If you do have any further concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Adrian Sanders MP