

The below suggestions are presented in eight sections:

1. Travel
2. Primary home;
3. Second home;
4. Second Home contents;
5. Constituency office;
6. Other expenses;
7. Lobbyist Functions or meetings;
8. Additional Income;

The details of all eight ought to be subject to annual inspection by the Commons authorities and independently audited. These also need to be published annually in line with the freedom of information law.

1 Travel:

ALL MPs principal concern must be travel, BE THEY London or non-London MPs. An MP must travel to more than just their Primary home/second home and parliament or constituency office. They must attend functions, conferences, after dinner speeches, radio or TV interviews, civic functions, all party group meetings with key lobbyists (note #7 below), and a host of other activities. These must necessarily also include regular shopping or school runs for their family, and other family gatherings.

What I propose is that all MPs are issued with free travel cards, similar to what is issued to senior citizens and the disabled. These cards can be used for travel on Bus, Train, Coach some internal Air flights and taxi, as well as river taxi where they exist, and ferry journeys between islands within the UK*. This can also include the hiring of vans to move personal property between constituency home and second home, where circumstances demand and can be reasonably explained. Air and Train travel must be restricted to coach/second class.

Some MPs living outside of the 25 mile Radius of London (see #3 below), but within two hours travel time to London, may choose to exercise this option rather than take a second home.

Since all but by bus and some ferry services, journeys will have to be booked in advance, giving their parliamentary card number to the desired operator, a track of all journeys can be made of all MPs movements throughout the UK. Their travel easily compared with their appointments diaries. If any use of the card would be considered illegitimate, the Commons Authorities can easily demand the cost of said journey to be repaid.

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In this way any dubious use of the card may be diminished; and any such missies limited to the use of local bus services (see also #7 below).

The manner in which the commons authorities could pay for these journeys could be either done on a ticketing basis (i.e. how many journeys and at what const per annum), or by negotiating with bus, train, taxi and other operators a bulk payment per annum to each operator to cover such use.

2. Primary home:

This is the home an MP is registered to live in, either in the constituency they live, or come to serve. It is the home they have usually been living in prior to their becoming an MP, or the home in their constituency they shall move to on becoming an MP for said constituency. This home is the home they will be liable to pay a mortgage interest towards and for Council tax, by themselves or with or by a partner.

This constituency home can also have attached to their constituency office, if room permits (e.g. as a home over a storefront shop used as a constituency office) in similar manner to a lawyer, accountant, GP or dentist might have.

1. If two MPs are married, it is expected their registered home is the same home, regardless whether this home is in the constituency of either MP—unless and until they are legally separated.
2. If, and only if, an MP normally lives outside of their constituency (e.g. if their spouse cannot for work reasons move to the constituency, and that home is their registered home prior to becoming an MP) an office arrangement as above will be permitted as an extension to normal constituency overheads (see #5 below). If married MPs both live outside of their constituencies, two such office arrangements will be met by the Commons authority.
3. If an MP should have two or more homes prior to becoming an MP, the Commons authorities will ignore all but one as their registered home. But equally should such an MP become elected to constituency outside London; and he or she normally own more than one home with one of said in London prior to becoming an MP; the Commons authority must consider whether the incoming MP's income can continue to support several homes without Commons's aid or not (see #8 below).

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Granting upkeep will not be instant and any attempt by said MP to artificially reduce their income to gain said allowances, will of course break income-tax rules, so subject them to prosecution by the HMRC.

4. An MP can change registration of primary home, normally this is either moving home within a constituency, or relocating to their constituency from outside. But this could also mean registering their London home as their primary home, and constituency home as second home (with or without office attachment (see #5 below), but they will not gain any financial benefit from doing so (see #2 below).

3. Second homes:

An incoming MP living outside London would search for a home of his or her choice within London in the normal manner, and present said to the commons authority—but the Commons authority can set an upper limit of mortgage/rent they will allow. If a mortgage is above the limit, the incoming MP must pay the mortgage interest difference.

Ideally these ought to be a rental homes (houses or flats)—ideally furnished, but those on the open mortgage market can be considered. In either case the costs of said will be picked up by the Commons authority—not the MP.

The Commons authority would as such also assume the costs of insuring the fabric and exterior and contents of this property (see also #3); along with the general running costs of the house (water, electricity/gas, and telecommunications and taxation). Maintenance costs will also be absorbed by the Commons Authorities directly.

MPs will get no additional moneys for upgrades or home improvements because of this.

In this way the property will only nominally belong to the MP, while in fact being a) the property of an independent landlord, or b) of the Commons authorities as mortgage holders become the MPs landlord.

Should such a house then become vacant, the Commons authority can either find a new MP willing to live a such a property, or sell it on the open market, to gat back their investment in it. In this way the Commons authority may become the owners of houses and flats suitable for MPs over time, if this is deemed appropriate in the long run. The outgoing MP will have no rights to own sell or

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dispose of the property in any way whatsoever. Equally no MP will have any right to rent such property to a third person—be they a fellow MP or a member of the general public or family.

If at any time the MP while sitting, or retiring from the Commons desired to keep this home for him or herself, they can do so by taking out a mortgage in their own name, and buying in back of the Commons authority.

This plan would stop dead any MP claiming for a London home owned by someone else they might stay with.

Homes situated outside of the UK will not constitute a primary home; so stopping London MPs claiming allowances on their London home as if a Second home.

If grace and favour housing should continue, MPs with constituencies outside London will relinquish their second home for the entire period they will have access to Grace and favour property.

No MP living within a 25 mile radius of London can claim for a second home. MPs over that limit (perhaps up to 50 miles) may elect to have no second home preferring to use the travel card for daily taxi rides instead (see also #2 above).

4. Second Home contents:

I propose that an incoming MP shall be allowed a single one off payment of up to perhaps £30,000 to furnish his or her new second home. It is a one off sum, never to be repeated, and should the MP move homes in his or her time as MP they will be expected to take the furniture they put in the first second home to the second, second home and so on.

But because the Commons authority actually bought this furniture, it is fully and comprehensibly the property of the Commons authority not the MP. The MP cannot dispose of said property in any way whatsoever, unless they make purchase of said property from the Commons authority it of their MPs salary.

Receipts would still have to be provided in full for all purchases for the second home, so that the Commons authorities can ensure that the purchases made were appropriate for furnishing a new home (this can include relocation costs and first year's insurance).

A second home will be distinguished from their primary home, by being the home that which he or she is not registered as their primary home prior to becoming an MP, or as a second home in

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London they owned as a second home, prior to becoming an MP (see #2 above).

This plan should stop dead an MP 'flipping' his or her second home allowance onto a variety of homes during his or her time as an MP. Or making claims for allowances on homes that are theirs by legal right prior to becoming an MP

The Commons authority will not be expected to pick up the relocation costs incurred should an MP decide to from one second home to another in London, during a MPs time in the Commons. It is not expected, on moving to London initially, there should be any relocation costs at all, but those that may exist will come out of the initial £30,000 furniture allowance.

No such payment will be allowed on their constituency home—which shall be their primary home. An MP's primary home—as it currently is will be that which they have been living in prior to becoming a MP (their registered home). One either located within the bounds of their constituency or elsewhere (see also #5 below). Once so registered, it is in effect unchangeable, even if they might move their (registered) home addresses during their time as MP, just as it is with MPs serving London Constituencies. The Commons authority will have no responsibilities here. Under these rules it would be meaningless for an MP to swap the registration primary constituency home to their London second home, even if they live most of their time in London, as no further moneys will come to them, and maintenance and service costs will merely transfer from one home to the other.

5. Constituency offices:

Constituency office costs and rents, communications allowances, and supply of secretaries and other staffers; and costs of staffs in their parliamentary office, shall be taken on, as Parliament has recently decided, by the Commons authorities.

This could include travel cards for MPs staffs; or costs of relocating to London. But they shall not have any allowances towards the costs of their homes etc.

Costs of cleaning, repairs etc of constituency offices must be dealt with on the same grounds as that of providing staffs for said.

Where an MP's registered home is outside their constituency prior to becoming an MP, an MP may be entitled to an extension of normal constituency office overheads of having an office with

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attached house of flat to live in (i.e. house with office space, or flat over a storefront type office) while dealing with constituency matters (see #2 and #4 above).

Should such an MP decide to move to their constituency to live full time (i.e. move their registered home to their constituency) they will have two options open to them:

- a) If they move into the house/flat attached to their constituency office, this house will lose its status as an office extension, as it becomes the registered home.
- b) The MP will buy a separate home of their own in the constituency, and thus the new office arrangements will have to be found that does is not part of a house. Flats over storefronts can be separately sold.

In this way the Commons authorities, not the MP, can redeem some of the costs incurred by the Commons authorities over the previous period when the said MP was residing outside of their constituency.

6. Other expenses:

MPs will lose, if they ever had them, rights to redeem costs such as food, dry-cleaning, formal clothing hire etc. But can make claims for Internet or other telecommunications subscriptions, only where it is clearly to be used for their work as MPs. Where the use has joint capacity, the Commons authority may agree to part costs.

Costs of cleaners etc. for unoccupied Primary homes or second homes when the Commons is not sitting may be dealt with as an extension of cleaning arrangements for Constituency offices.

Travels on Parliamentary business abroad will also continue as present, covered by the Commons authorities (see also #7 below).

The Commons authority must give consideration to MPs with young children—as such the costs of childcare, of young babies and infants only, must be forthcoming as a necessary expense that will allow an MP to function properly as said. The Costs of private school education is not within these bounds—where outside of nursery provision, nannies and day care (including baby sitters). Schooling for older children is normally provided free by the state; any other arrangement in the private business of an MP and their spouse, and so not the business of the Commons authorities.

7. Lobbyists Functions or meetings:

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Where MPs travels abroad or in the UK to attend lobbyist functions they must register these with register of member's interests. To do so will remain mandatory. This is immaterial of any extra benefit a PM may gain from doing so—such as the costs of hotel expenses, meals, travel etc. or not. Any use of the MPs travel card for such a purpose, where the costs of travel would be nominally picked up by a lobbyist, the Commons authority can demand a refund of said fairs from the MP. This can be ascertained by crosschecking the appointments diary of an MP with the register of interests, and log of travels made—all of which must be published openly according to the freedom of information law.

8. Additional income:

Many MPs enjoy additional outside income from direct or indirect employment in the city or elsewhere. Where this occurs, the Commons authority can use said to either use this to insist that an MP can now afford his or her own London second home, or demand the repayment of earlier allowances (e.g. the furniture allowance, or costs of maintenance, upkeep or non constituency office cleaning—even childcare), (see also #2 and #6 above). The logic being that the existence of MPs allowances etc. is provided solely as a consideration for MPs who have only their MPs salary to live on, and no other.

In this way MPs will have to consider carefully if they are committed to public life, or are only part time MPs.

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