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17th June 2009

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Sir Christopher Kelly
Chairman
Committee on Standards in Public Life
House of Commons
LONDON

Dear Sir Christopher,

Re: MPs' Expenses

I wish to register my comments regarding the above but in particular the question of MPs accommodation.

When we voters send an MP to the House of Commons we do not send the spouse and family. There is absolutely no need or reason for any MP to have a second "home". All that is required is single accommodation for the MP whilst attending their duties at Westminster. All prospective MPs know where their "office" (Westminster) is when they apply.

My husband was an Air Traffic Controller and started his working life in England at Gatwick. Ten years later he was transferred to Air Traffic Control at West Drayton. We had to decide whether or not to move our home to West Drayton but for the children's education, family reasons, etc. we decided to stay in Woodingdean, near Brighton. Air traffic is a 24 hour job and as a shift worker my husband took rented accommodation near West Drayton where he stayed for the 4 day shift cycle and returned home for his days off. His employer CAA would certainly not have paid for a second "home" and neither should the public. I have no doubt that thousands of people are in the same position as we were.

The Taxpayers Association has made a suggestion that the accommodation being built for the 2012 Olympic Games should be considered for MPs accommodation afterwards and this seems an excellent idea.

If the word "accommodation" had been used instead of the word "home" with all its connotations of family life and the necessities thereof, we may not have had this appalling spectacle of MPs outrageous expenses.

Yours faithfully

M. GRINSTED