

G MELAERT

PLOUGUIEL, FRANCE



19 July 2009

Sir Christopher Kelly KCB  
The Committee on Standards in Public Life  
35 Great Smith Street  
LONDON SW1 3BQ

Dear Sir

I imagine that you and your team are hard at it in your efforts to formulate an equitable solution to the Members of Parliament expenses problem – which I understand is your remit.

The Government has stated that MPs' expenses are to be made public for the past four years but how far back does this scandal go? Talk of two decades has been made and what could the total amount of money stolen from the taxpayer be if this were indeed the case?

That all MP's were a party to the scheme – because they voted for it – a secret scheme, illustrates clearly that all Members were culpable and both Houses are involved. Not only did MPs' vote to claim expenses (a bottomless pit) on a vast scale and were immune from prosecution, they voted themselves above average salaries, the best pension scheme in existence and a working hours regime which is tantamount to semi-retirement on full pay- but all of this I am sure you are aware of.

If your brief is to put forward a scheme to cater for MPs' expenses which would be operated by an independent body – it will, under the present circumstances require the agreement of the Government and so one wonders what if the Government do not agree or wish to cherry-pick? Are salaries, pensions and working time still to be decided by MPs' or are these matters also now to be decided externally?

It goes without saying that things could be so much better for the people as a whole if there were a written constitution because as things stand the Executive have complete power as has been graphically demonstrated by this Administration. They committed the Country to an illegal war, they have been dishonest and disingenuous, they have mortgaged future generations to the hilt by spending billions on failed institutions – the list is endless.

There is no recourse for the voting public, they can but wait for five years and suffer until they have the opportunity to vote for others- but nothing will change unless there is a rule book- a Constitution, written, for all to see and thereby a means for the people to take action if there is wrong doing.

I realize that much of the content of this letter will not concern you but I feel that you are a person of great integrity and I hope that you will agree with the sentiment which this communication puts forward and if that is indeed the case perhaps you could persuade others that radical change, not only in respect of expenses, but in the overall system because it is long, long overdue.

Yours faithfully

G MELAERT