

Dear Sir / Madam

As a member of the public, I am appalled to read this morning that MPs are being allowed to claim an overnight subsistence allowance **without presentation of receipts**. This could amount to £9,125 for a year. If claimed by every MP, the annual cost could be nearly £6 million.

At a time when the nation's finances are in such a dire mess, this further waste of taxpayers' money is, in my view, totally unacceptable and furthermore is open to abuse because of the absence of accountability (no receipts).

Will you please request Sir Christopher Kelly to consider scrapping this allowance in his current review. This allowance appears to have been cobbled together by a few "senior" MPs and the Speaker and the details have somehow emerged after MPs have "broken up" for the summer recess. So much for everything being out in the open!

I am fully in favour of MPs being paid a generous salary but not all the "perks" that have recently been available. The only allowances should be rent for accommodation in the capital and travel for those MPs whose constituencies are more than 50 miles from Westminster. There should be a limit on the maximum amount of rent - only payable if an MP also has a property in his or her constituency and maintained at his or her expense. Travel to and from the constituency and Westminster should be paid by voucher - in other words use the train!

Yours faithfully

Mr J M Stringer
Southport