

E745

17 AUG 2009

Sir Christopher Kelly
Committee on Standards in Public Life
35 Great Smith St.,
London SW1P 3BQ

Sir

August 12th 2009

Re your document 'Issues and Questions April 2009'

I am aware of course that the public phase of your consultation is over but I have only just become aware of this document and I find it deficient in the following matters:-

It makes no reference to any Act of Parliament and therefore we are given no background in law; in particular surely the 2003 Act relates?

Who are the current decision makers –or opinion formers- within Parliament on expenses and allowances; if it is the party leaders, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House or the Whips we should be told this?

Who is the so-called 'parliamentary authority'? are they appointed?-if so by who?is their authority, skill and training appropriate?-it appears not!

There should be an executive summary of MP's duties

There should be an indication of their obligations to work in Westminster on their parliamentary duties-including implied hours

And a similar summary of their constituency obligations

There should be an executive summary of their current compensation-of whatever kind

The obligations of MP's to report (and have reported by their 'employer') all expenses and allowances to HMRC—including any current dispensations agreed by HMRC

Without these-and probably much more information- I do not see how the public can possibly give a reasoned opinion on these matters –except to say that the default position for MP's should be to avoid giving them any privileges, exemptions, allowances and expenses that would not apply to ordinary citizens and taxpayers.

Yours faithfully

P. M Afia

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