



Dale Heenan <dale.heenan@googlemail.com>

Our Ongoing Exchanges

Dale Heenan <dale.heenan@googlemail.com>

Wed, Mar 4, 2009 at 1:01 PM

To: michaelwillsmp@parliament.uk

Dear Mr Wills

I have noted our discussions over the last 12 months with interest, and I think they have been very informative. In light of some of the recent news around MP's, such as Jacqui Smith, and yesterday's announcement on cracking down on Voter Fraud in your capacity as Minister of Democracy, I have reread these exchanges and wondered if I could have your comment on the following statements. With these being based on your words to me and I must assume they are accurate.

* During 2007-08 you made receipted claims for £14,797.56 for interest payments on a mortgage and receipted claims for £2,855.90 in payments for utilities [phone, gas, water and electricity].

* Your receipted Council Tax claims totalled £1116.12 during the 2007/08 year. Since no Council Tax band was this amount, it would indicate that a discount was applied for. Depending on the property band, this could imply the 25% single person entitlement.

* These claims were submitted against a Swindon property, which I assume is based in Castle Eaton

* You have informed the House of Commons that your main home is in London so you are able to submit claims for a Swindon based property.

* Since you and your family are listed on the electoral roll in Swindon, Swindon Borough Council has been informed Swindon is your main address and that you meet the criteria set out in the Representation of the People Act 2000

* For an MP this criteria includes living in the property following loss of office, and the property would have been the permanent place of residence if not in public office. It is your belief that the eligibility to be on the Electoral Register is a matter that only the Electoral Returning Officer should investigate and decide on. However, you have stated you owned a property in London prior to being selected as Labour's Parliamentary Candidate, so this would appear to cast doubts on the criteria being met.

As a Minister of State with responsibility for Democracy, local residents obviously need to have complete confidence that their MP is acting within the rules and within the spirit of the law. I sincerely hope that everything is fine, but I would welcome your own comments on what I have outlined.

kind regards
Cllr Dale Heenan