

Now everybody is bored with the MPs expenses scandal. When David Laws was exposed for lying about his relationship, thereby defrauding us of £40,000, many papers were declaring 'enough is enough' and 'draw a line under it'. I suspect most of the media are bored with The Telegraph getting all the scoops, or they have achieved their aim of getting rid of a Labour government at Westminster. Everyone has moved on to the more news, different scandals. The football frenzy that was the cup final has been replaced by South Africa, another celebrity has cheated on his wife and we are all waiting to see where the council's spending axe will fall next.

But I refuse to let this scandal lie. We were defrauded out of thousands of pounds. We paid out thousands more under a ridiculous secret scheme that the MPs controlled themselves. Many of the claims were within the rules, but they made them up those rules and used our money to live the life of Riley. Meanwhile we watch our children's swimming pools, libraries and schools close, and hear there is no money to build much needed homes for our frail elderly.

A woman in England was jailed for eighteen months, because she never declared her marriage to the authorities. She had wrongly claimed £42,000 over the last seven years. As there was no scandal over her sentence, I guess this is a reasonable punishment for such a crime (and crime it was). Why then does David Law – who did exactly the same thing – get away with being described by our new Prime Minister as “a good and honourable man”? He resigned from the government, but he is still an MP, still being paid, and still claiming his expenses. Rest assured his buddies will make sure he is promoted just as soon as they think they can get away with it again.

So what is our new government at Westminster doing? Spending money on a report. Why can't some senior politician just come up with some guidelines himself? Surely if we are paying such high salaries it is not beyond the wit of someone to spend a day or two researching what other industries do and come up with some recommendations. The tax people helpfully provide guidance on the sort of expenses that can be claimed by us little people without incurring a tax liability. Most employers in the public and private sector simply adopt those as their guidelines, and a few of the less wealthy organisations that can't afford to do so, offer less.

Does anyone outside the city of London really believe that we have to pay such a lot of money to attract intelligent hard-working people into parliament? I know many people, working for far less, who think strategically, work long hours on behalf of other, are diplomatic and above all, are trustworthy.

And while I'm having a rant, do you think our Highland man in the government, Danny Alexander, will do anything to help Highland Council out the mire? You may recall that they tried to bribe council tenants to agree to privatisation by offering to clear the council's capital debt. Tenants voted against the move and so the money never came.

If the council didn't have to pay off the loans and the interest being charged, then you and I wouldn't have to suffer the all the proposed reductions. And don't even start me on fuel prices.

Someone rang me at home the other day to try and establish my voting intentions. The caller assumed I had voted LibDem (which isn't unlikely in this area, I suppose). If I had simply said yes I will vote for them next time, he would have thanked me and rang off I'm sure, but I made the mistake of being truthful and so had a twenty minute conversation about the coalition and all things Tory.

When Charles Kennedy came to talk to us before the election, I asked his views on the scandal but got a typical non-committal politician's view and not really an answer at all. I Like Mr Kennedy, and as a whole I thought the LibDems were to be trusted. I'm afraid now I fear they are just like all the rest and the change we hoped for will be swept under the carpet like so many other promises.