

14<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Sir Thomas Legg KCB QC  
c/o ACA Review Team  
3rd Floor  
7 Millbank  
London SW1P 3JA

Thank you for your letter of 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009 giving notice of your provisional conclusions concerning use of the Additional Costs Allowance (the ACA) during the years 2004-05 to 2008-09, and for giving me the opportunity to make comments on your conclusions.

I have consistently supported efforts from all quarters to ensure that the expenses system is put right and replaced with new procedures which are fair, honest and transparent. Please therefore find attached my own response to your recommendations, in which you will see that I have either simply agreed to repay totals as you suggest, or provided additional supporting evidence or explanation as you require and then calculated the resulting additional totals.

As for the amounts I have already repaid, you have correctly quoted both sums. I confirm that I wish them to be allocated to the repayment of the ACA payments to which you refer in your letter, and I am content for the matter to be mentioned in the review's final report.

I therefore calculate the total outstanding amount to be £3,380.56, which I shall repay as soon as your provisional recommendations become final.

Ref No	Issue Description	Your Provisional Conclusion	My Response	Recommended Repayment	My Proposed Repayment
12708	£10,840.38 for gardening over 5 year period exceeds £1,000 per annum	I should repay £5,840.38.	I shall.	£5840.38	£5,840.38
13473	I claimed £2,508.10 in 2007/08 and £6,630 in 2008/09 for cleaning, which exceeds £2,000 per annum.	I should repay £5,238.10.	I shall.	£5,238.10	£5,238.10
460	Swimming pool maintenance claimed for together with allowable ACA items (total £791.17)	I should repay the element relating to swimming pool maintenance; if this cannot be identified, I should repay the whole sum.	The calculation I attach shows that the element relating to the swimming pool maintenance was £16.75.		£16.75
7721	Lack of detail supporting claim for £1,295.05, and cost of Pro Grow.	I should repay the allowance unless I can provide a satisfactory account of the work carried out.	It is difficult to be sure, so long after the events, of the details. Pro-Grow costs £6 per 50 litre bag; on the assumption we had 25 bags, that totals £150. Since I have exceeded the new gardening limit, I shall repay that amount. The remainder of the invoice (being £1,145.05) I deal with below.	£150	£150
7723 and some of 7721	Renovation and repair of summerhouse, which is not a necessity. The bills total £6,032.37.	I should be asked whether the summerhouse is attached to the main property.	One of the invoices attributed to the summerhouse (38, dated 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2008, for £451.88) was for the repair of the lawn mower. That leaves £5,580.49 which when added to £1,145.05 above totals £6,725.54. The others were mainly but not exclusively for several matters: the repair of a deep hole in the entrance to the property caused by the storm of 2007, requiring the rebuilding of the drain towards the road; the repair of the roof of the garage; the repair of leaks in the conservatory; the repair of leaks in the house roof and consequent redecoration; and the repair of the roof of the summerhouse. If the appropriate criterion is whether the summerhouse was physically attached to our house, I accept it was not. While it could be that the bills should be shared equally between those matters, I wish to err on the side of the taxpayer and attribute one third of the total (£2,241.85) towards the repair of the summerhouse and repay it.	£1,145.05 (from above)	£2,241.85
				Total: £12,373.53	Total: £13,487.08
				Less already paid:	£10,106.52
				<b>Total to pay:</b>	<b>£3,380.56</b>

	Hours spent	Cost of hours		Probable time	Cost of identified hours
May 30th	10.5	£110.00	Strim and Mow Clean Pool Filters/Pump	10 0.5	£5.25
June 13th	13	£143.00	Strim and Mow Retie up plants green string Remove brash wood up to bonfire Clean filters remove live algae from pump Back wash	12.5 in total 0.5 in total	£6.50
June 20th	11	£121.00	Strim and Mow Prune roses on pool wall Weeding Vac Pool clean filters Report pool has a filter problem	10.5 in total 0.5 in total	£5.00
				Total to be repaid	£16.75

But not:

May 23rd  
May 25th  
June 1st  
June 6th  
June 27th