PR/PI/28

Please forward to the Privileges Committee.

The subject matter of the e-mail, dated the 14th December 2005, by me to Mr. Glenn is Mr. Peters but the client referred to is not.

I have always stated that there are two clients involved in this subject matter.

I am prohibited by privilege from divulging the name of the other client.

The sole issue before this committee is whether there is "debt" or "gift" that Mr. Peters was required to disclose in his declaration of interest.

The legal position is clear that there is no debt.

It is equally clear that there is no gift.

Mr. Kos QC has overlooked the axiomatic principle of electoral law that the donation of time by any person to an election is encouraged and expressly does not constitute an electoral expense.

This principle also applies to the declaration of interest by a Member of Parliament.

The voluntary provision of time to assist a Member of Parliament has never been required to be disclosed as a gift in the declaration of interest.

Indeed the declaration of interest document would be an unwieldy responsibility if the time donated by constituents and supporters to every Member of Parliament had to be recorded.

Brian Henry

7/9/2008