

Press Releases June 2010

16 June 2010

IPSA issues consultations and sets out new measures to improve service to MPs

Proposals setting out how IPSA will publish expense claims and how the new Compliance Officer will investigate complaints and, where necessary, impose penalties on MPs are issued for consultation today by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority.

IPSA has also announced a range of measures to improve the service it provides to MPs to assist the implementation of the new rules on MPs' expenses.

Under its statutory obligations, IPSA is issuing consultation documents on three issues:

- the procedures relating to the new Compliance Officer, including the way he pursues investigations and what penalties he may impose on MPs who transgress the rules on expenses;
- the extent of information about claims for expenses claims submitted by MPs that should be published given IPSA's commitment to transparency and openness balanced against issues of privacy and security;
- minor adjustments to the expenses rules to deal with anomalies that have come to light since the scheme was introduced last month.

The changes to the way in which IPSA provides a service to MPs include:

- additional guidance to MPs on the use of the online claims system;
- face-to-face advice surgeries on operating the new rules;
- the extension of the £4,000 advance already available to MPs to be repaid by March 2011 rather than by the end of August;

- consideration of other issues, including the possibility of direct payment of invoices, as part of the planned review of the expenses scheme later this year.

To read full details please [click here](#).

9 June 2010

IPSA has today announced changes to its management structure.

Kate Mathers, formerly Deputy Director of Finance, has been appointed Acting Director of Operations, to enhance the links between IPSA's Finance and Operations functions. Kate will take over from Nigel Gooding, who was appointed on an interim basis to manage the planning and immediate start up phase of the organisation. Nigel will continue to work with IPSA for the next month to support a seamless handover.

IPSA has also announced that Ruth Sloan will lead the Advisory Services team, overseeing the advice lines run by IPSA. Ruth Sloan was previously seconded from the Ministry of Justice to the implementation team which established IPSA.

4 June 2010

IPSA has appointed Alan Lockwood to the role of Interim Compliance Officer.

Alan comes from a distinguished military career with the Royal Air Force during which he commanded operations in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Since his retirement from the military, Alan has been active in politics, defence and the media, and has served as a Trustee Board Member with the Citizens Advice Bureau.

During the next six months Alan will be in charge of setting up the compliance office and ensuring that the policies and procedures are developed and are in place.

The compliance office is independent of IPSA and is responsible for investigating complaints regarding breaches of the expenses rules by an MP or IPSA.

Whilst the compliance office is being established please contact Alan Lockwood at the following email address: compliance@parliamentarystandards.org.uk

The law requires IPSA to consult on various aspects of the Compliance Officer's procedures. The date for the start of this consultation will be issued shortly.