

Press Releases May 2010

25 May 2010

The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) has today offered MPs further short-term assistance to help with the effective implementation of the new expenses rules.

Advances will be available from tomorrow, to enable MPs to pay for up-front expenses they will incur in the first few weeks of the new Parliament. The advances will be repayable later this year.

IPSA is also changing how MPs will claim for their telephone bills. The onus will now be on MPs to account for the proportion of their calls that are made for non-parliamentary functions such as party political activities. IPSA reserves the right to audit compliance with these arrangements.

Neither change adds to the cost of the scheme as announced in March.

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

21 May 2010

IPSA was set up to establish a new, independent system of expenses after the scandals of last year. This what we are doing - an important step in restoring public confidence in the MPs' expenses system.

The rules, set out in March, are a radical change to what went before. But, as we have always said, implementation of these rules represents a big change for all involved.

That is why we have invested heavily in providing training and advice to MPs and their staff. In just two weeks we have held one-on-one induction sessions with more than 550 MPs, and dealt with around 1,000 emails and a similar number of phone calls from MPs and their staff.

IPSA continues to listen to feedback from MPs and the public on the rules. Where good evidence can be provided that the system needs improving, we will do so.

But the fundamental basis of the new rules are fair, workable and transparent. Working with MPs we can ensure that public confidence in the way MPs claim and are paid expenses is restored.

21 May 2010

The issue about the level of the staffing budget for MPs for 2010/11 has been examined by the IPSA Board.

We remain confident that the budget we have determined is sufficient for the annual operation of an MP's office, and do not intend to revise that level for this year. We do recognise, though, that there is a possibility that some MPs could have, from the previous Parliament, contractual commitments which go beyond the level of funding that is being provided.

We also note that it is not possible for returned MPs, who may be affected, to know from 7 May 2010 whether they will face this problem, given that they cannot know whether any of their staff will move to new roles voluntarily, or resign, retire or ask to reduce their hours. Any of these would in all probability alleviate any shortfall that the MP might have. If such events are likely, then there is no pressing need for concerned MPs to take immediate action to restructure their offices.

We therefore ask MPs who may be affected to monitor the situation over the course of the year and to contact IPSA by November 2010 if they can demonstrate that they have taken all reasonable steps to attempt to reduce costs, and they believe that expenditure in excess of the budget for the 2010/11 financial year is still likely. If it should transpire that it is necessary, we will set out a course of action to support the MPs and the staff who may be affected.

6 May 2010

IPSA has today published the guidance to the MPs' expenses rules. The guidance gives further details on a range of issues regarding the implementation of the rules, including mortgage interest subsidy and accommodation bandings. To view the scheme, including guidance, [click here](#).