

For five days now, we've been trying to keep to new resolutions – to live a healthier life, spend more time with loved ones, or to get our finances straight. For the new regulator in charge of MPs' expenses, we are keeping to an old resolution: to ask people what rules they think MPs should stick to when claiming expenses.

After the scandal of the last Parliament, IPSA was created to end the old, failed approach and to bring a new and trusted one in. That is exactly what we are doing.

In the past, MPs decided the rules themselves and they did so behind closed doors. Not any more. When we started, we gave people around the land a say about the rules. We are doing so again. For the next six weeks, we are asking everyone to tell us what they think.

Rightly, we hear a lot from MPs about what they think. We will listen to them and act if it is right to do so. MPs are already telling us that they are worried about the impact of the rules on their families and they are concerned about some of the budgets we have set for them.

But we also want to hear from those whose money is being spent: you, the taxpayer.

It is in everybody's interest that we have a system of MPs' expenses that you trust. And so it is right that you have a say in the rules that MPs have to stick to.

We all air and share our thoughts in private with family and friends. This is a chance to air those thoughts and by doing so to influence the rules your MP has to live by.

Get involved, speak up and make your thoughts count.

[www.parliamentarystandards.org.uk](http://www.parliamentarystandards.org.uk)