

BOARD PAPER	
Paper ref:	IPSA/181011/6
Agenda item:	7

TO: IPSA Board

FROM: Andrew McDonald
Chief Executive

TEL: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Chief Executive's Report

ANNEXES: A: Communications update

DATE: 13 October 2011

Timing

1. To be taken at the 18 October Board meeting.

Recommendation

2. That the Board notes this report.

Report

Service delivery improvements and their communication

3. We are writing to MPs on Friday (14 October) to announce the changes to IPSA's service to be launched on Monday 17 October. A copy of that letter will be circulated, via e-mail, along with the weekly Board update.
4. At its meeting on 4 October, the Board asked that we should look into the production of a video to demonstrate the new functionality for favourites and for mileage. This has now been filmed and it will be available through the IPSA website before the meeting of the Board on 18 October.

Board away day, 20 October 2011

5. We will be circulating papers to the Board tomorrow (Friday 14 October) in advance of the discussion of IPSA strategy on 20 October.

Speaker's Committee for the IPSA

6. Sir Ian and Martyn Taylor appeared before the Speaker's Committee for the IPSA yesterday (12 October) to discuss the work of the Compliance Officer and the consultation on the Compliance Officer's procedures (which was published on 11 October, and which closes on 25 November 2011).



7. We are continuing to work with the Speaker's Committee in order to agree a schedule of meetings for the 2012/13 Estimate.

Committee on Members' Expenses

8. The CME took evidence earlier this week (11 October) from Dr Ira Madan, the House's occupational physician, Peter Riddell and Matthew Parris. It will be receiving evidence next week from Fiona Alexander (another Westminster-based medical doctor with an interest in occupational health issues), Martyn Taylor and Sir Christopher Kelly.
9. John will be circulating the revised draft of our written evidence today (Thursday 13 October) in advance of its submission to the Committee early next week.



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12. The House will debate the Government motion on MPs' pensions on 17 October; we expect our powers to be commenced soon after then. The motion reads as follows:

PARLIAMENTARY CONTRIBUTORY PENSION FUND

Sir George Young

David Heath

That this House reasserts its view that the salaries, pensions and expenses scheme for hon. Members ought to be determined independently of this House; accordingly invites the Leader of the House to make an order commencing those provisions of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 which transfer responsibility for the pensions of hon. Members to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA); supports the approach to public service pension reform set out in the Final Report of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission chaired by Lord Hutton of Furness; believes that IPSA should introduce, by 2015, a new pension scheme for hon. Members which is informed by the Commission's findings and their subsequent application to other public service pension schemes; recognises the case for an increase in pension contributions made in Lord Hutton's interim report; and accordingly invites IPSA to increase contribution rates for hon. Members from 1 April 2012 in line with changes in pension contribution rates for other public service schemes.

IPSA website

13. At its meeting on 4 October, the Board asked that we should investigate and cost the steps needed to ensure that the IPSA website was compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act. We have reviewed the standard set out by the W3C (the body who set standards on the internet) through their Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, and also issues arising from the Equality Act (formerly the Disability Discrimination Act). We have now identified all the steps needed to make the website compliant with this standard and with the Act, and these will be completed before the meeting on 18 October, at no additional cost.

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14.

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Andrew McDonald
Chief Executive