Minutes of a meeting of IPSA's Board

7 July 2026

Board Members: Richard Lloyd OBE (Chair)

Dame Laura Cox

Lea Paterson CBE

Cliff Rana JP

Sir Charles Walker

See Annex for record of attendees.

Status: Submitted for approval at the meeting of the Board on 22 September 2026

1. Declarations of Interest, Minutes, and Actions

1.1 The Chair invited attendees to declare any interests not previously recorded. Charles Walker made a declaration in relation to his appointment as the Chair of the Sky Charitable Foundation for Arts and Sport.

1.2 The minutes of the Board meeting of 19 May 2026 were approved.

1.3 The Board noted the completed and outstanding actions. The Director, MP Services provided an update on work being undertaken in relation to HMRC and the treatment of taxable expenses. It was noted that external advisers had been appointed to support IPSA's tax work. The Board asked to receive further updates as the work progressed, including on communication arrangements.

2. Transparency and Publication Review

2.1 The Head of Standards and Transparency presented an update on work undertaken in relation to the transparency and publication review following the Board's informal discussion of this

subject in April. This had included benchmarking against comparable organisations and the development of a proposed transparency strategy for IPSA.

2.2 The Board considered the proposed objectives for the transparency strategy and was supportive of the overall direction of travel, agreeing that transparency should support accountability, external scrutiny, public trust, and IPSA's credibility as a regulator. The Board were also supportive of the draft design principles which suggested that publication should be narrative-led, tailored, accessible and visual, and proactive.

2.3 The Board discussed the importance of ensuring that transparency arrangements were meaningful and appropriately contextualised. It was noted that publication requirements could influence behaviour and that IPSA should remain mindful of any unintended consequences for MPs and their staff.

2.4 The Board considered proposals for more proactive publication of information frequently subject to Freedom of Information requests, in particular the potential publication of additional MPs' staff workforce and demographic data. The Board noted both the advantages of proactive disclosure and the need to remain clear about IPSA's role and responsibilities in relation to such information.

2.5 The Board discussed proposals relating to the publication of exceptional funding, with support expressed for further work to ensure that publication arrangements remained transparent whilst not creating unnecessary barriers to accessing support where required.

2.6 The Board considered the implications of increasing use of centralised services and noted that publication arrangements should appropriately reflect where accountability for expenditure rested.

2.7 The Board discussed the frequency of detailed publication and was supportive of further exploration of a move from six publication cycles per year to three publication cycles per year, subject to ensuring that transparency and public understanding were enhanced rather than reduced. The Board also asked that opportunities to accelerate publication following the end of each reporting period be explored.

2.8 The Board supported further consideration of thematic annual publication and the use of analysis and contextual information to support public understanding of MPs' expenditure and IPSA's work.

2.9 The Board agreed that further work should be undertaken in development of a transparency strategy which would be presented at the meeting of the Board in September, alongside consideration of any consultation requirements and how proposals could be tested through IPSA's public engagement programme.

3. MP Pension Scheme

3.1 The Head of Standards and Transparency presented a proposed amendment to the MP Pension Scheme rules relating to survivors' and dependants' pensions. The proposed amendment would ensure consistency in the treatment of same-sex and opposite-sex spouses and civil partners. The Board agreed that IPSA should undertake a short technical consultation on the proposed amendment.

4. Report from the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

4.1 The Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) reported on the Committee's most recent meeting.

a. The Committee had undertaken a deep dive into data risk and had received assurance that appropriate controls remained in place, and that the risk was being managed effectively.

b. The Committee had reviewed IPSA's principal risks and had asked the Executive Team to consider further the gap between current residual risk levels and risk appetite in several areas.

c. The Committee received assurance on year-end processes and discussed opportunities to reduce administrative burden associated with year-end activity in future years.

d. The Committee reviewed proposals for a new integrated assurance model linked to IPSA's three lines of defence and agreed that this should be piloted.

e. The Committee noted that all internal audit reports issued since its previous meeting had received reasonable assurance, with the exception of a report on bought-in services which received partial assurance. On the latter, the Committee requested a more strategic discussion on how the underlying issues would be addressed, which would be brought to the Board later in the year.

5. Report from the Improving IPSA Assurance Group

5.1 The Chair of the Improving IPSA Assurance Group reported on the Group's most recent meeting. The Group had discussed ERP discovery work, agreeing on the importance of ensuring that the discovery phase was completed thoroughly before implementation decisions were taken. The Group also received updates on the implementation of centralised services, including broadband provision, hotel booking arrangements, and a new MP payment card solution.

6. Report from the People Committee

6.1 The Chair of the People Committee reported on the Committee's most recent meeting. The Committee had reviewed the first quarter pulse survey results, discussed talent development and succession planning arrangements for critical roles, agreed updates to its Terms of

Reference, and reviewed the outcomes of a recent Board skills audit. In relation to the latter, the Committee noted the continued value of Board member constituency visits and shadowing of frontline teams in supporting Board effectiveness.

7. Compliance Officer's Quarterly Report

7.1 The Compliance Officer presented his quarterly report to the Board which concerned activity undertaken during the fourth quarter of 2025-26. It was reported that the number of cases raised with the Compliance Officer remained stable. The Compliance Officer provided the Board with an update on live investigations.

7.2 The Board discussed the issue of safeguards in place where MPs' staff had multiple contracts of employment, receiving updates from both the Compliance Officer and the Director, Standards and Information of work being undertaken to strengthen these where appropriate without encroaching unnecessarily upon the employer-employee relationship.

8. Guest Speaker – Doug Chalmers, Chair of the Ethics and Integrity Commission

8.1 The Board welcomed Lt Gen Doug Chalmers, Chair of the Ethics and Integrity Commission, who provided an update on the work of the Commission and the upcoming report concerning the review of lobbying, business appointment rules, and disclosure. The Board discussed opportunities for IPSA and the Commission to collaborate on public engagement activity.

9. Chief Executive's Report

9.1 The Chief Executive presented her report to the Board, noting the announcement of the Speaker's Committee for IPSA (SCIPSA) recommendation that the Chair be re-appointed for a further three-year term. IPSA had signed its first constituency office lease on behalf of an MP.

9.2 Significant progress had been made towards completion of IPSA's 2024-25 Annual Report and Accounts (ARA). It was reported that, subject to final confirmation from the National Audit Office, it was hoped that it would be possible for the accounts to be laid before Parliament ahead of summer recess. The Board agreed to delegate authority to the Chair and the Chair of ARAC to approve the final version of the 2024-25 ARA on its behalf.

9.3 The Board discussed an amendment to its Standing Orders that provided clarity as to the decision-making process in place for changes to guidance not contained within the MP Funding Scheme. The Board agreed to the amendment as presented, with a clarifying line to be added stating that any material changes would continue to be reported to the Board after the event.

9.4 The Director, Standards and Information presented proposals for a consultation on longer-term funding principles. The proposed consultation would focus on funding principles, transparency,

value for money, and IPSA's statutory responsibilities, rather than future budget levels. The Board supported the approach proposed, agreeing that Board members should be sighted on the consultation materials via correspondence prior to publication.

9.5 The Director, MP Services presented the strategic dashboard, noting that compliance levels remained high, and that average processing times had improved. The Board welcomed the continued high quality of performance reporting.

9.6 The Chief of Staff presented an update on transformation programme activity. The Board noted progress in relation to ERP discovery, budget flexibility, the property strategy, and the development of an MP staff leadership programme.

9.7 The Acting Director, Finance and Commercial presented the financial report, noting that the McCloud provision had reduced to £2.8 million following updated actuarial advice, although the 2024-25 ARA would continue to reflect the previously reported £3.1 million provision. The Board also noted forecast underspends against both Subhead A and Subhead B budgets, largely reflecting staffing utilisation and the phasing of expenditure.

10. Board Programme of Work

10.1 The Board noted its programme of work, noting that consideration of ERP discovery would need to be incorporated into the September Board strategy day agenda.

Annex One

In attendance: Karen Walker, Chief Executive

Lee Bridges, Director, Standards and Information

Karen Lacey, Director, MP Services

Jenni Patterson, Acting Director, Finance and Commercial

Chief of Staff

Head of Standards and Transparency

Compliance Officer (Items 7-10)

Lt Gen Doug Chalmers (Item 8)