IPSA
Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority

Supporting democracy

Public funding of MPs' parliamentary duties 2025-26

November 2026



Foreword from the Chair



Every Member of Parliament must represent the people in their constituency, whilst also working in Westminster.

Whether responding to casework, supporting local communities, scrutinising legislation or participating in parliamentary debates, MPs rely on staff, offices and practical support to carry out these responsibilities effectively.

IPSA's role is to provide the funding that makes this work possible while ensuring public money is spent appropriately and transparently. We do this independently of both Parliament and Government, setting the rules which govern MPs' business costs and publishing information about how public funds are used.

This report explains how that funding supports democracy in practice. It shows how resources are used to employ staff, run constituency offices and enable MPs to work in both Westminster and the communities they represent. It also outlines the safeguards in place to ensure spending remains within clear budgets and strict rules.

Transparency remains central to our work. Public confidence in democratic institutions depends, in part, on people being able to understand how elected representatives are supported and how public money is spent. By publishing this information, we aim to help build that understanding and provide assurance that funding is being managed responsibly.

The role of an MP continues to evolve and IPSA must evolve alongside it. Over the past year, we have continued our work to ensure the support available to MPs remains fair, effective and reflective of the realities of modern parliamentary life. This report provides a clear picture of the practical support that underpins parliamentary representation across the UK, and the independent oversight that helps maintain public trust in that system.

Richard Lloyd OBE
IPSA Chair

IPSA’s duties and responsibilities

IPSA is the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority.

We are independent of Parliament and Government, and provide the funding MPs need to carry out their parliamentary duties while ensuring public money is spent appropriately.

Each year, IPSA supports 650 MPs and their staff across the UK, helping elected representatives maintain constituency offices, employ staff and work effectively in both Westminster and their constituencies.

How we support MPs

MPs rely on staff, office space, travel and other practical resources to represent their constituents.

IPSA provides funding for these costs, enabling MPs to manage casework, engage with local communities and carry out parliamentary responsibilities.

We also determine MPs' pay and pension arrangements, and pay MPs' staff directly. Staffing accounts for the largest area of expenditure funded by IPSA.

How we ensure accountability

Alongside providing funding, IPSA independently regulates MPs' business costs through the Funding Scheme for MPs.

We set budgets and rules, assess requests for reimbursement and publish information about expenditure. To be reimbursed, costs must fall within the rules and budgets we have established, and be able to be supported by evidence.

How we promote transparency

Transparency is central to our role. We publish MPs' expenditure regularly throughout the year and produce an annual report explaining how public funding supports parliamentary representation.

By making this information publicly available, we help ensure people can understand how their money is spent and the safeguards which exist to protect it.

And by combining independent regulation with open publication of expenditure data, IPSA helps ensure MPs have the support they need to carry out their parliamentary duties while maintaining confidence in the system which funds them.

Key facts about IPSA funding

MPs do not decide their own pay or budgets

Since 2010, IPSA has been responsible for setting MPs' pay and determining the budgets available for parliamentary duties. We do this independently of both Parliament and Government to ensure decisions about public funding are made impartially.

Alongside setting pay and budgets, IPSA regulates MPs' business costs and publishes information about expenditure so the public can see how funds are being used.

IPSA funding can only be used for parliamentary duties

IPSA funding cannot be used for personal expenses or activities unrelated to parliamentary duties.

IPSA solely supports MPs in carrying out their responsibilities as elected representatives, including employing staff, running constituency offices, travelling for parliamentary purposes and working in both Westminster and their constituency.

MPs must follow strict budgets and principles

IPSA sets budgets for areas such as staffing, constituency offices, travel and accommodation. MPs must operate within these limits and can only request reimbursement for costs that meet the rules set out in the Funding Scheme.

Most costs are only reimbursed when they are supported by evidence such as receipts or invoices. Expenditure which exceeds established budgets, falls outside the rules or is not related to parliamentary duties will not be funded.

Most IPSA funding supports MPs' staff

The majority of funding provided by IPSA is used to employ staff and run constituency offices. These staff help MPs respond to constituents, manage casework and support parliamentary activity, while constituency offices provide a local base from which MPs and their teams can serve the communities they represent.

Staffing accounts for the largest proportion of expenditure each year, reflecting the important role staff play in supporting MPs to carry out their work effectively on behalf of constituents.

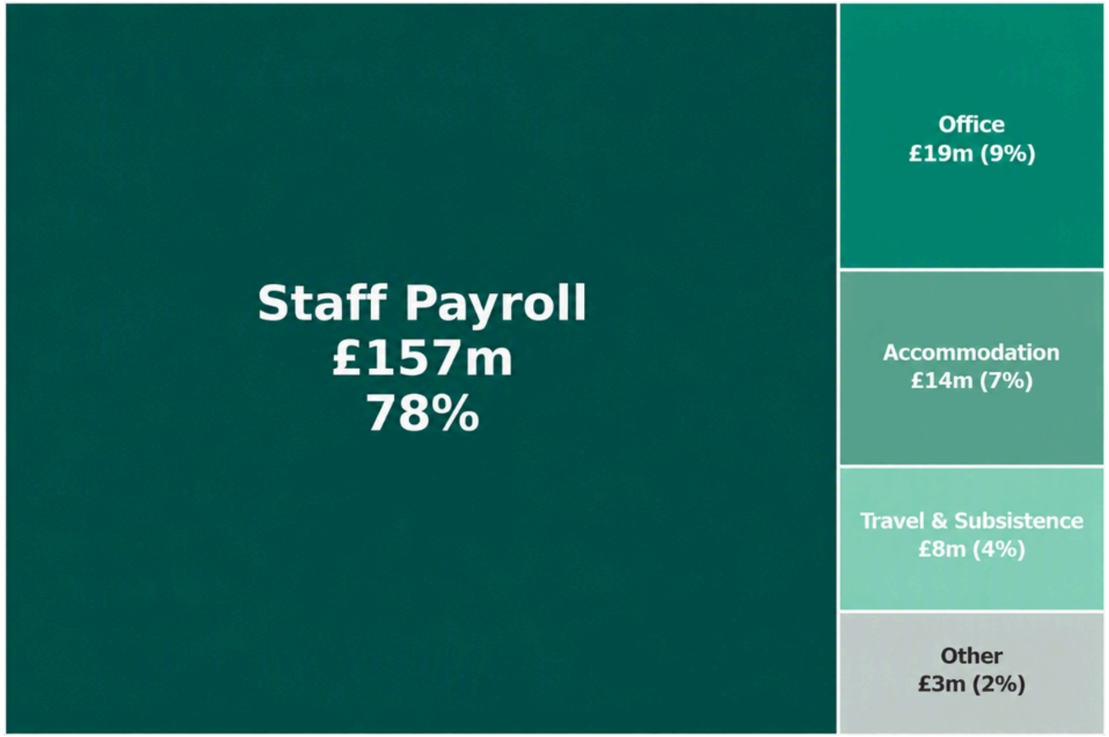
How IPSA funding supports MPs – MP funding in 2025-26

MPs rely on staff, office space and practical resources to carry out their parliamentary responsibilities and represent the people who elected them. IPSA provides funding for these costs, helping MPs maintain a presence in their constituencies while participating in parliamentary business at Westminster.

The support provided by IPSA reflects the practical requirements of parliamentary representation. MPs employ staff, run constituency offices and, in many cases, divide their time between Westminster and constituencies located hundreds of miles away. IPSA's funding supports these activities while ensuring expenditure remains subject to clear rules, budgets and independent oversight.

The largest area of expenditure is staffing, although IPSA also provides funding for constituency offices, travel and, where eligible, accommodation.

The chart on the right shows how IPSA funding was used during 2025-26 to support parliamentary representation across the UK.



How IPSA funding supports MPs – staff and constituency offices

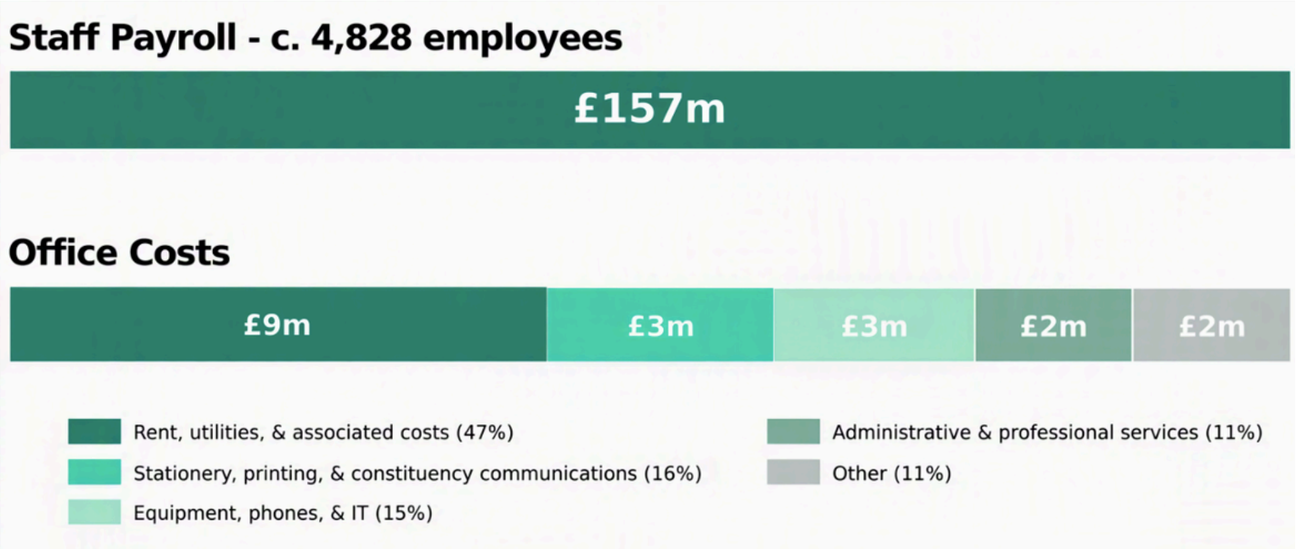
The majority of IPSA funding supports the people and facilities which help MPs represent their constituents.

MPs employ teams of caseworkers, office managers and parliamentary staff who help respond to constituent enquiries, manage casework and support parliamentary activity. In total, in 2025-26 roughly 4,828 people worked for an MP.

IPSA administers payroll on behalf of MPs, and staff receive their salary directly from IPSA. However, MPs remain the legal employer and are responsible for the recruitment and day-to-day supervision of the people who work for them.

IPSA supports MPs by setting a budget for their staffing requirements, alongside a budget to run constituency offices which includes the reimbursement of rent, equipment and other day-to-day operating costs.

Service charges and utility bills can also be reimbursed, the latter of which totalled £0.84m across all constituency offices in 2025-26.



How IPSA funding supports MPs – working in two places

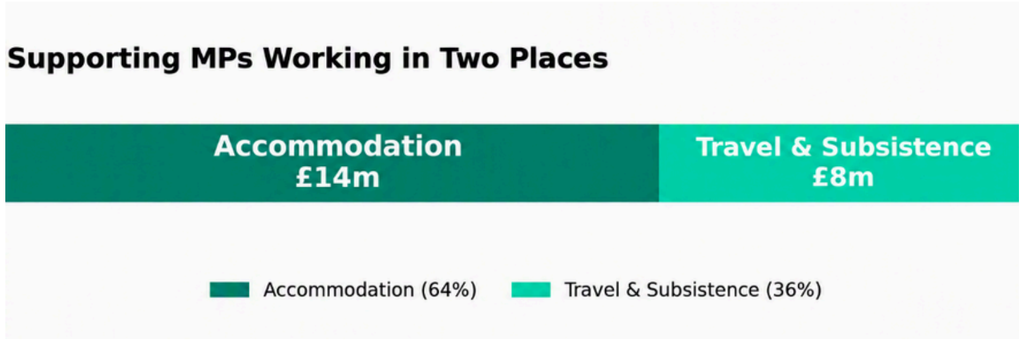
Members of Parliament divide their time between Westminster and the constituencies they represent, which may be hundreds of miles apart. To support this, IPSA provides funding for travel and, where eligible, work accommodation.

MPs representing constituencies outside London can receive funding for work accommodation and be reimbursed for journeys between their constituency and Westminster. Accommodation may take the form of a private home, rental property or hotel.

MPs can only request reimbursement for costs associated with one property used for parliamentary work, either in London or their constituency. MPs who receive accommodation as part of another role or represent constituencies in inner London are not eligible for accommodation funding.

IPSA does not fund mortgage payments or any costs relating to properties which are not used for parliamentary duties. Costs such as utility bills, council tax and service charges can only be reimbursed for work accommodation. In 2025-26, the utility bills for MPs' work accommodation totalled £0.05m.

Additional support is available for MPs with primary caring responsibilities, helping them balance parliamentary duties with family commitments.



Costs relating to both travel and accommodation rental are presented as aggregate annual figures for each MP. This provides a clearer picture of total expenditure over the course of a year and supports more meaningful comparisons between MPs. Aggregating these figures also helps protect the privacy and security of MPs and their staff.

How IPSA funding will support MPs in the future

MPs and their staff are working in an increasingly demanding environment, balancing constituency casework, local engagement and parliamentary responsibilities.

Our five-year strategy sets out how we will make it easier to access the funding and services that support this work, reducing administrative burdens while ensuring public money is spent effectively and delivers value for the taxpayer.

This includes:

Easing the administrative load through centralised services

Accessing the services needed to run an effective office can involve significant administration. To help address this, we are developing more centralised services, enabling MPs to access goods and services through IPSA rather than sourcing and managing them independently.

By procuring services like broadband and utilities at scale, we can reduce administrative effort, improve consistency and secure better value for money, allowing MPs and their staff to focus more of their time on supporting constituents.

Easing the administrative load through property services

A constituency office is often at the heart of an MP's work in their local community, but securing and managing office space can be complex and time-consuming. As part of our move towards a more service-led model, we intend to lease constituency offices on behalf of MPs.

By taking on these responsibilities centrally, we can simplify processes, reduce administrative burdens and help secure consistent, value-for-money arrangements.

Building public confidence through transparency

Alongside improving the services we provide, we remain committed to helping the public understand how parliamentary funding is used.

Through clear information, effective oversight and greater transparency, we help demonstrate how public money supports MPs in carrying out their parliamentary and constituency responsibilities, strengthening trust in democracy and confidence in the system that supports it.