

# Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority

## Newsletter September 2019

IPSA is taking part in [UK Parliament Week](#) this year by hosting a free talk on Thursday 7 November at 3pm. UK Parliament Week is an annual festival that engages people from across the UK with their UK Parliament, explores what it means to you and invites you to get involved. During IPSA's talk we will share information on IPSA's formation and development over the years, details of our role, responsibility and policies as well as plans for the future. [Click here to register for your place.](#)

IPSA's Chair, Ruth Evans, announced that she is resigning in October 2019 after three years at IPSA, in order to focus on other non-executive roles. The responsibility for appointing a new Chair is with the Speaker's Committee of the House of Commons.

Over the summer IPSA published two assurance reports, one relating to subletting and the other relating to professional services. Further details of both can be found below as well as details of the current consultation into MPs' staff contracts following Gemma White QC's Bullying and Harassment of MPs' Parliamentary staff Independent Inquiry Report.

This newsletter contains information on the following:

- UK Parliament Week
- MPs' Staff Contracts Consultation - Confidentiality clause
- Assurance Review: Subletting 2019
- Assurance Review: Professional Services 2019
- International meetings
- How to access MP spending data

With best wishes

Marcial Boo  
CEO

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### UK Parliament Week

Find out more about the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority during UK Parliament Week 2019 with a free talk on Thursday 7 November at 3pm. [Click here to register for your place.](#)



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### MPs' Staff Contracts Consultation - Confidentiality clause

This month we launched a consultation regarding MPs' staff contracts, specifically regarding the confidentiality clause. Gemma White QC's [Bullying and Harassment of MPs' Parliamentary Staff Independent Inquiry Report](#) makes a number of recommendations to address the findings that some MPs' staff are subject to an unacceptable risk of bullying and harassment. We take good employment practice and wellbeing in the workplace very seriously and we condemn bullying and harassment.

One of the recommendations in the report is that IPSA should consider amending the wording of the confidentiality clause in staff employment contracts to make it clear that the clause does not prevent employees from raising a complaint or bringing a claim of bullying and harassment against the MP or others. We have taken legal advice that confirms that the current clause in the contract used to employ MPs' staff does not prevent employees from bringing a claim of bullying and harassment. However, we consider that the wording of the relevant clause could be made clearer.

We have launched a consultation to consider whether the wording should be

changed. The consultation will run until 15 October 2019. Further details on how to respond can be found [here](#).

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### **Assurance review: Subletting**



#### **Assurance Review: Subletting** Analysis of expenditure and compliance

This report sets out the findings of IPSA's review into the arrangements that some MPs have in place to sublet their IPSA-funded offices to third parties.

IPSA's [Scheme of MPs' Business Costs and Expenses](#) states that, where an MP allows any other person to use their constituency office, they must charge a fee which reflects an appropriate proportion of the rent and other costs incurred, and that this fee must be paid to IPSA.



**Assurance Review: Professional Services**  
Analysis of expenditure and compliance

**Assurance Review: Professional Services**

This report sets out the findings of IPSA's review of claims made by MPs for the cost of professional services.

**The Scheme of MPs' Business Costs and Expenses** ('the Scheme') allows MPs to claim for the cost of such services which support their parliamentary functions.

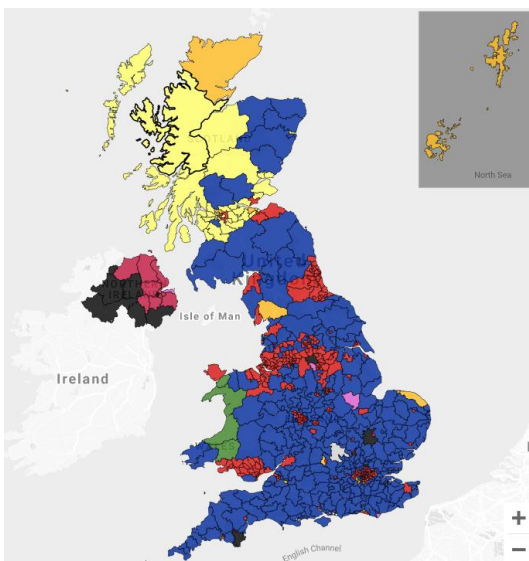
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**International Meetings**



During the summer, IPSA's CEO met with representatives from the Korean National Assembly and IPSA's Director of Regulation and Insight met with members of the Institute of Secretariat Training & Management in India.

Both meetings were an excellent opportunity to share knowledge and experience of parliamentary regulation.



### MP Expenses Data

Since IPSA was created in 2010, we have published data on MP spending every 2 months. The publication for September 2019 was postponed as Parliament was not sitting.

You can access this data through IPSA's website [here](#).

If you have any queries about the information in this newsletter, please  
contact [communications@theipsa.org.uk](mailto:communications@theipsa.org.uk)