

# Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority

## Newsletter May 2019

In March 2019, IPSA hosted the world's first conference for international parliamentary regulators, who pay politicians in their own countries. IPSA is a world leader in the independent regulation of MPs' remuneration and the conference was an opportunity to bring together practical knowledge from dozens of countries alongside input from academics. You can find further details about the event below.

Almost ten years ago, the system for setting and regulating politicians' pay and expenses in the United Kingdom changed fundamentally when IPSA was created. Since then, there IPSA has been open and transparent, publishing all spending by MPs every two months and responding over 1,100 requests for information from the public.

This newsletter contains information on the following:

- IPSA's Information Video
- International Parliamentary Regulators Conference 2019
- Conference Blogs
- International meetings
- How to access MP spending data

With kind regards

Marcial Boo  
**CEO**

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## IPSA's Information Video

IPSA launched a new information video at the International Parliamentary Regulators Conference earlier this year. This video has now been published online [here](#). You are welcome to share this video.



## International Parliamentary Regulators Conference 2019

In March 2019, IPSA hosted the world's first conference for international parliamentary regulators, bringing together 13 parliamentary regulators from 5 continents: Australia, Chile, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Scotland, Wales, Zambia and the UK.

The conference was co-hosted with the University of Bath's [Institute for Policy Research](#) and had contributions from colleagues from the political and academic worlds including [Dame Margaret Hodge MP](#), [Lord Daniel Finkelstein](#), [Anthony Smith, Chief Executive of the Westminster Foundation](#)

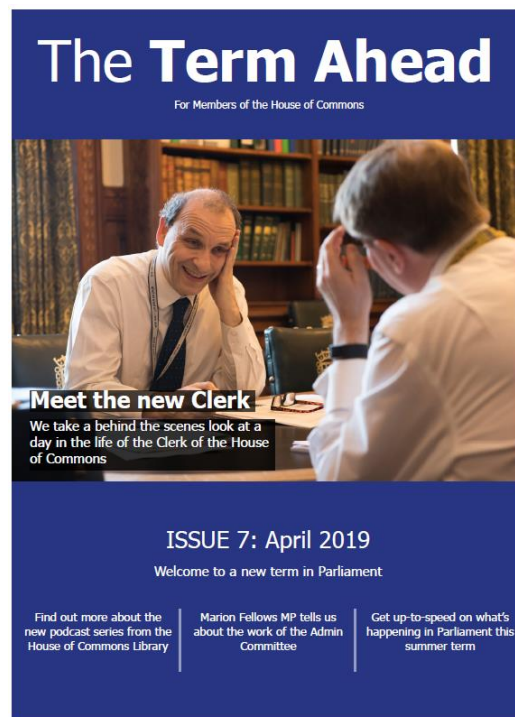
[for Democracy](#), [Duncan Hames, Director of Policy at Transparency International UK](#), [Dr Hannah White, Director at the Institute for Government](#), [Professor Nick Pearce](#), [Dr Peter Allen](#) and [Dr Sue Maguire of the University of Bath](#) and [Nick Dickinson, Doctoral Researcher at The University of Exeter](#).

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## Conference Blogs

The International Parliamentary Regulators Conference has been featured in two publications.

**The Term Ahead** parliamentary magazine featured an article focussed on the Trust and Transparency panel discussion chaired by Dr Hannah White of the Institute for Government. The article is below.



 HOUSE OF COMMONS

In March 2019, the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) hosted the world's first conference for international parliamentary regulators, bringing together 13 parliamentary regulators from five continents to exchange ideas and good practice.

The theme of the conference was 'Transparency and Trust' and included a panel discussion chaired by Dr Hannah White of the Institute for Government. The panel comprised Dame Margaret Hodge MP, Lord Daniel Finkelstein, Dr Peter Allen of the University of Bath and Marcial Boo of IPSA

– a Member, a journalist, an academic and a regulator – who brought multiple perspectives on transparency and the difference it can make to public trust in politicians.

Marcial Boo championed transparency in the regulation of public funds but acknowledged the risk of the media focussing on the small numbers of non-compliance, which could damage trust. Dame Margaret considered that, while transparency is important for building trust, a system must prove itself worthy of trust. Dame Margaret believes that a greater understanding of what Members do would help to raise trust in politicians. Lord Finkelstein argued that, while transparency is essential it doesn't necessarily lead to increased trust. He explained that the public need to know that Members work hard in the public interest. Dr Allen said that in true democracy a certain amount of distrust is healthy, but agreed that teaching people about the practicalities of working as a Member could build trust.

The consensus of the panel was that transparency is essential to democracy, and that the withdrawal of information would undoubtedly damage public trust. Public bodies must demonstrate that they are worthy of trust and provide information in a way that can be understood and easily interpreted by the public. The panellists agreed that trust takes time to build and that politicians, academics, regulators and the media all have important roles to play in doing so.

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**IPSA conference: challenges of transparency and trust in politics**

April 25th, 2019 | [Open Parliament, Parliaments, Space and Access](#)



The [Westminster Foundation for Democracy](#) April newsletter featured a blog summarising IPSA's thoughts on the conference.

[Click here to read the blog.](#)



## International Visits

Since the conference IPSA has continued to meet with delegations from international parliaments during their visits to London.

IPSA CEO, Marcial Boo, met with representatives from the Ugandan Audit Office on 1st May and a delegation from the Kenyan Senate on 7th May

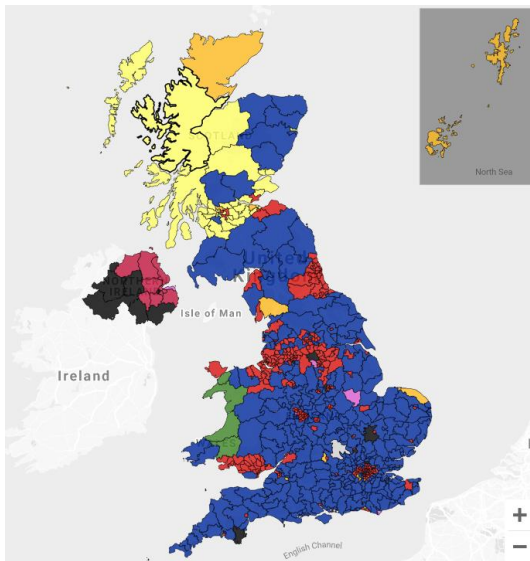
(pictured). These visits offer a valuable opportunity to learn how different parliaments manage to balance their role of providing a service to members of parliament and the need to deliver robust regulation to ensure that public money is being well spent.

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## Mind Workplace Wellbeing Awards

IPSA also achieved a Silver rating at [Mind's](#) Workplace Wellbeing Awards. IPSA is committed to promoting a positive culture around mental health, supporting staff wellbeing through raising awareness and putting in measures to support staff when they need it.

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## MP Expenses Data

Since IPSA was created in 2010, we have published data on MP spending every 2 months.

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

You can access the latest Scheme of MPs' Business Costs and Expenses [here](#).

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