

IPSA

Independent Parliamentary
Standards Authority

Supporting democracy

Funding of MPs' parliamentary duties
2024-25

November 2025



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Foreword



Since IPSA was created, we have regularly published information about the financial support we provide to help MPs carry out their duties in two places: their constituencies, and Westminster.

This level of transparency is fundamental to IPSA's aim of supporting trust in our democracy.

And in the last few months, we have done more to engage with the public on how MPs should be supported and funded in the future: both in the form of a widened consultation, and our first independently-led Citizens' Forum.

The recommendations of our Citizens' Forum - a group randomly drawn from a representative segment of the UK population - will help guide how we fund the role of an MP in the future.

The past year saw a once-in-a-generation general election, with more MPs leaving office than in any election in the last 50 years.

We also helped 350 new MPs find offices, arrange work accommodation, and recruit staff to help represent constituents both locally and in Parliament.

Details of the financial support that has required are laid out in this report.

IPSA plays a relatively small role in a large political landscape, and there is still a lot of work to do in explaining the unique position and responsibilities of an MP.

This annual publication aims to reassure the public that their money is being spent responsibly - and regulated effectively - to maintain a healthy UK democracy.

Richard Lloyd
IPSA Chair

IPSA's duties and responsibilities

What is IPSA?

IPSA is the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. We are independent of parliament and government, and make impartial decisions about MPs' pay and funding. We have the legal duty to:

- regulate MPs' business expenditure
- determine MPs' pay and pension arrangements
- provide financial support to MPs to carry out their parliamentary functions

Understanding MP expenditure

IPSA's **Scheme of Staffing and Business Costs** sets the rules on what costs MPs can be reimbursed for.

These costs are associated with the running of constituency offices and supporting parliamentary duties. Business costs are generally only covered if supported by receipts or invoices, and are within the budgets we provide.

MPs also recruit staff to help them with their duties. These staff members - while employed by the MP - are paid directly by IPSA. We publish rates of pay depending on the staff members' position, and the funding is not part of an MP's salary.

IPSA's commitment to transparency

All details of MP spending is available **on our website**. We're committed to ensuring everyone is aware how public money is being spent.

Every two months we publish spending data from funding processed four to five months in arrears, and every year we make an annual publication outlining expenditure over the previous financial year.

Our **annual publication** includes details of MPs' staff salaries, total travel reimbursements, and payments made after a general election, including loss-of-office and winding-up payments.

Fact #1

MPs don't decide their own pay, or the budget for their business expenditure

IPSA has been deciding MPs' pay, budgets for their business expenditure, and which business costs are covered since 2010.

We work entirely independently from both government and parliament to ensure public money is spent appropriately.

Fact #2

MPs must follow strict budgets and abide by our principles when submitting business costs

MPs are given budgets for things like accommodation and office costs, and these must be adhered to at all times.

We don't fund items which exceed these limits, or which we believe are not parliamentary.

Fact #3

IPSA only provides funding for MPs carrying out their parliamentary duties

MPs can only be reimbursed for expenditure related to the resources that assist them in doing their job as an MP, like hiring staff or travelling between their constituency and Westminster.

IPSA funding does not top up MP salaries.

We also don't set or administer ministerial pay, or oversee business costs for government departments or parliamentary committees.

Fact #4

The majority of funding is used to pay MPs' staff and run constituency offices

Around 88% of the funding we provide goes towards the running of MPs' constituency offices.

This includes the cost of renting and maintaining a suitable office space, as well as hiring caseworkers and office managers.

Fact #5

MPs can't be reimbursed for food and drink during their normal working day

MPs only receive a small subsistence allowance if they are travelling for work and staying overnight outside of London and their constituency.

They are not repaid for any other personal costs they incur in these scenarios, and don't receive any funding for personal meals in their constituency or Westminster.

Fact #6

We don't cover all accommodation costs for all MPs

MPs can only be reimbursed for the cost of maintaining their work accommodation, which must either be in their constituency or in London.

They can't be reimbursed for the costs of more than one property, or the cost of a property outside of these two locations.

MPs who represent constituencies in London, or receive accommodation as part of their role, aren't eligible for any IPSA accommodation funding.

Fact #7

IPSA doesn't pay all MPs' utility bills

IPSA only reimburses the utility costs for MPs' work accommodation, and for constituency offices.

These are taken from MPs' accommodation and office costs budgets, which must be adhered to at all times.

Learn about [why we fund certain types of energy bills](#).

Funding parliamentary duties

Together, the UK's 650 Members of Parliament employ thousands of staff to help with their constituency and parliamentary duties.

The salaries of these vital employees make up the majority of MPs' business expenditure: around 79% in 2024-25.

MPs hire and employ staff directly, but their salaries are paid by IPSA. For 2024-25, each MP was given a budget of £268,550 (in London) or £250,820 (elsewhere) to spend on their staffing arrangements.

The role of an MP is varied and unique. Their employees help them run their constituency office, and engage with the people they were elected to represent.

Running a constituency office

A constituency office is like running a small business.

MPs are responsible for hiring and managing staff, paying rent, and providing heating, lighting, and office equipment.

A good office manager can help keep an MP's constituency affairs organised, and ensure the smooth running of their office.

Helping constituents

Most MPs meet constituents regularly to listen to their concerns, offer guidance, and provide assistance.

They also receive hundreds of messages every day, and deal with huge amounts of casework which can range from immigration and healthcare matters to disputes between neighbours.

A team of caseworkers can help manage much of this work, especially while an MP is working between their constituency and Westminster.

Public engagements and working in parliament

While MPs are expected to spend much of their week in parliament,

they also actively engage with their constituents.

This can involve attending local events, speaking at public forums, supporting local initiatives, and building relationships with community organisations, businesses, and local government officials.

At the same time, MPs are responsible for reviewing proposed legislation, attending parliamentary debates, and voting on bills.

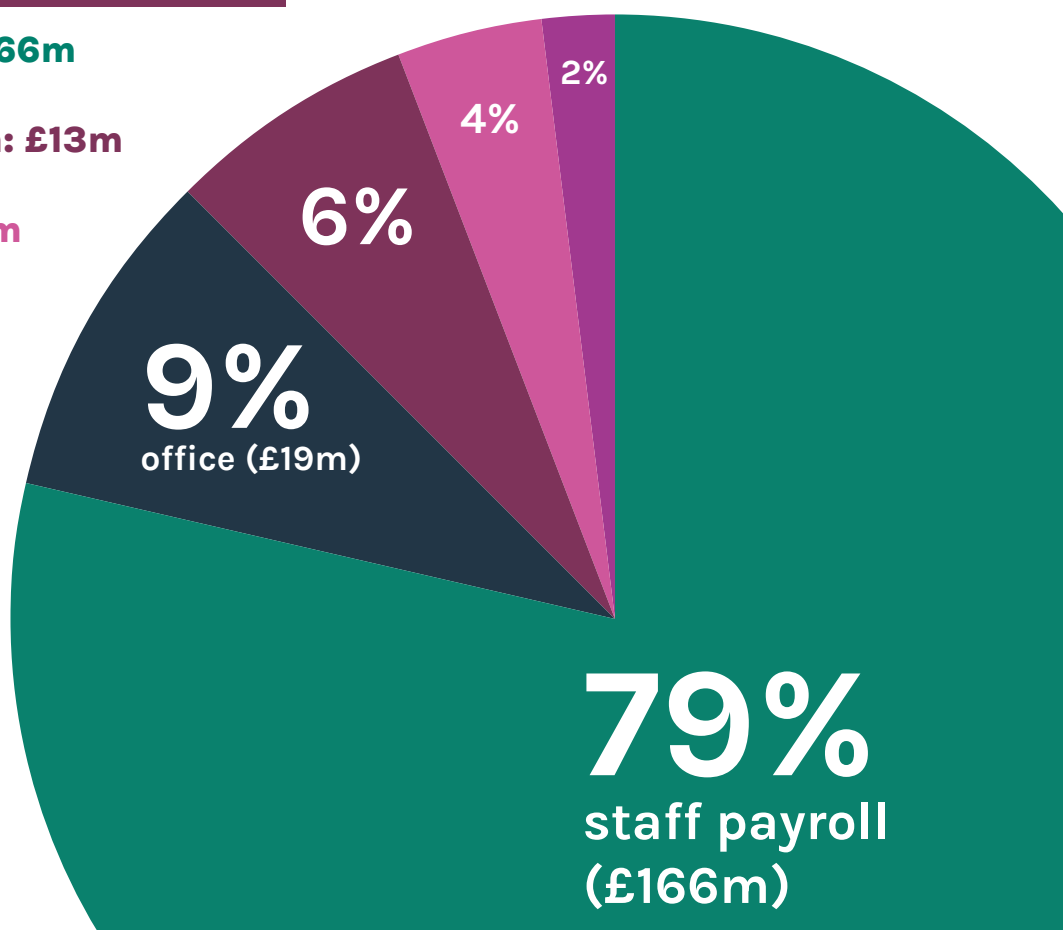
They may serve on parliamentary committees focused on specific policy areas, or inquiries. They attend meetings, review documents, conduct research, and contribute to reports and recommendations.

This requires in-depth research, analysis, and collaboration with other MPs.

IPSA provides funding for travel between constituencies and parliament, and a budget for work-related accommodation, to ensure MPs can work and attend engagements in both locations.

Breakdown of total spend

- **Staff payroll: £166m**
- **Office: £19m**
- **Accommodation: £13m**
- **Travel & subsistence: £7m**
- **Other: £4m**



2024 UK General Election

Our annual publication for 2024-25 includes costs incurred by MPs and IPSA during the months following the **2024 General Election**.

More MPs left office at than at any election in the last fifty years. IPSA provided support to 350 departing MPs, as well as 2,023 staff members who were made redundant.

Departing MPs were eligible for three different types of payment:

Loss of Office Payment

Former MPs are eligible for a loss-of-office payment (LOOP) if they were an MP on the day before the dissolution of Parliament, and stood unsuccessfully for re-election.

They must also have held office continually for two years before then.

Winding-Up Payment

All departing MPs can receive a winding-up payment if they leave Parliament at a general election, allowing them time to close down their parliamentary and constituency activities.

A winding-up payment is equivalent to four months' salary after tax and National Insurance.

Winding-Up Costs

Departing MPs are given four months to wind-up their office and close or pass on parliamentary work.

During this they can continue to be funded for staff salaries, and the cost of renting their office, which are included in our Winding-Up Costs.

Working in two places

MPs are elected to work in two places: their constituencies, which may be hundreds of miles from London, and the House of Commons.

IPSA is committed to supporting a representative parliament, where people without private finances to fund working from two locations shouldn't be prevented from becoming an MP.

We provide an uplift to accommodation budgets for MPs who are primary carers, to allow them as normal a family life as possible.

MPs who represent constituencies outside of London are eligible to have their journeys between their constituencies and Westminster reimbursed, and to receive funding for work accommodation.

This may be a private home, rental, or hotel.

There are strict rules about which costs are eligible, depending on where the accommodation is and whether the MP owns it.

MPs can only be reimbursed for the costs associated with one property, either in their constituency or London, and if they receive accommodation as part of their job they are not eligible for any accommodation funding.

We don't cover mortgage payments, or the cost of utility bills or council tax on properties which aren't used as a result of Parliamentary work.

In 2024-25, the total cost of utility bills and service charges was £0.77m in MPs' offices, and £0.34m in MPs' work accommodation.

Running a constituency office

IPSA provides funding for MPs to cover the cost of renting, equipping, and running constituency offices.

Constituency offices help MPs connect and meet with the people they are elected to represent.

They also operate like a small business: MPs employ staff directly, and having a constituency office provides a place of work for their members of staff.

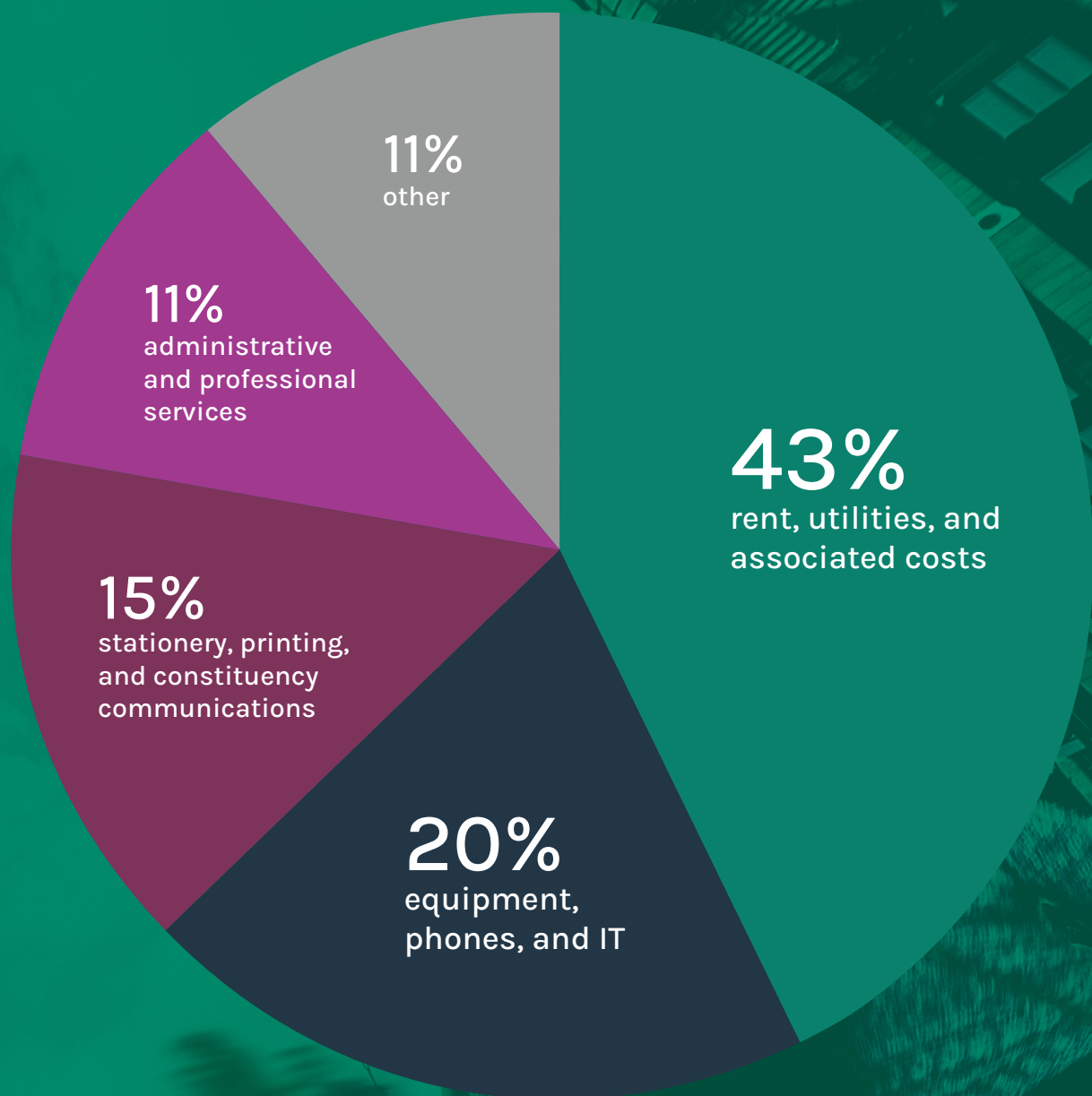
Because MPs are employers, they are responsible for managing their staff, paying rent for their office, as well as providing heating, lighting, and equipment.

With appropriate evidence, these can be funded within the strict limits of the office costs budget.

For 2024-25, the total budget for an MP's constituency office was £36,550 in London and £33,020 elsewhere.

This funding can be used to cover things like rent, business rates, and bills, as well as essentials like paper, pens, and printer ink.

Additional professional services, such as temporary administrative support, can also be funded via the office costs budget.



Type of office expenditure	2024-25 total	%
Rent, utilities, and associated costs	£8m	43
Equipment, phones, and IT	£4m	20
Stationery, printing, and constituency communications	£3m	15
Administrative and professional services	£2m	11
Other (including maintenance, venue hire, and training)	£2m	11

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