

## IPSA Board Workshop – 24 February 2010

Issue	The Board agreed that ...	Further work will be undertaken on ...
Diversity of representation among MPs	It was not IPSA's role to promote diverse representation, but the expenses scheme should not put up barriers or risk contravening disability discrimination legislation.	Introductory text to accompany expenses scheme, explaining that we had not yet tackled the key question – what is the proper role of MPs and how should they be working in 21 <sup>st</sup> century. Check legal requirements on public bodies re promoting equality.
Family lives	<p>A 2 stage approach would be taken:</p> <p>– as a short-term measure, while MPs were claiming for rental property on the open market, the default position would be to provide funds for a one bedroom flat. Some form of needs testing was required to determine any eligibility for additional support, but a quite hard line would be taken so this did not capture all MPs with children.</p> <p>- a longer term proposal would be to look at providing property directly, giving IPSA the opportunity to cater for other needs.</p>	<p>Attempting to define a simple formula for judging whether extra space is needed – possibly a points based system, or possibly limited to a few specific circumstances.</p> <p>Ensuring the system can operate without publication of personal details of MPs' family members, especially if the justification for additional accommodation is linked to</p>
Fundamental principles	The words "and decency" would be removed from Principle 12, and the principles would be printed with a rider that although they informed the scheme's development, not all of them applied equally in all circumstances.	Suggested minor redrafting of principle 9 and possibly 11
Eligibility for accommodation expenses	The basis of determining eligibility would be the zones 1-6 proposal, but we should look at extending the list of constituencies where MPs were ineligible to include a few others with high speed peak time rail services.	Producing a list of constituencies within a reasonable commute from Westminster by a range of alternative criteria based on peak time train travel.
Mortgage Interest payments	Mortgage interest should be available only on a transitional basis to those MPs with existing mortgage arrangements. There would be a 2 year grace period, to end July/Aug 2012.	<p>- Receiving definitive advice as to whether IPSA has the power to recoup capital gains from MPs.</p> <p>- Exploring the extent of the national rental market for 1 bedroom apartments.</p>
Standards of accommodation	Costs should be based on furnished accommodation.	Benchmarking one bedroom accommodation options within 30 minute commute of Westminster; exploring options for setting different rates outside London.

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Running costs - accommodation	Cleaning costs would not be met	Setting out what precisely MPs should be entitled to by way of television, phone and broadband costs
Class of travel	Set maximum rate at the cost of a standard open ticket rather than class of travel or length of journey; if at time of booking first class travel is cheaper then may claim for that. Economy class travel only by air and ferry.	Costing this proposal, and understanding the implications for MPs of the change to our previous proposed position.
Mileage Claims	MPs will have to certify the reason behind expenditure incurred and submit to IPSA for publication; but where expenditure is incurred in a series of small journeys, these could be bracketed together to reduce the administrative burden. No third party verification would be required.	Producing a final worked-up proposal.
Taxis	Taxis should be provided when MPs have to work late	Details need to be considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- what is the qualification for eligibility (Parliament sitting past a certain time? Does the MP have to vote or speak?)</li> <li>- open to MPs' staff on same basis?</li> <li>- How do we deal with taxability?</li> </ul>
Parking costs	Parking costs would be met only when they were not incurred as part of an ordinary commuting journey.	
Toll charges,	Toll charges would be met if they were incurred as part of a journey that is otherwise allowable.	
Family travel	Travel by MPs' family members should be limited to the families of those MPs who were recognised as having additional needs for their caring responsibilities for others (including where appropriate their spouse as well as the individual for whom they cared). The current limit on the number of journeys should be retained which equates to 15 returns journeys per year. The same rules would apply to family rail travel that applied to travel by MPs. MPs should also be reimbursed for the costs of half-price tickets for kids under 16.	
Payments for MPs who do not claim for accommodation	Creating a fair allowance amount for MPs who are eligible to claim for accommodation but choose not to would be extremely difficult – another route may have to be considered.	How this should be paid : whether it was preferable to meet additional expenses of MPs who did not claim for homes (e.g. commuting expenses) or whether it was better to pay an allowance
Subsistence	No decision reached.	To be returned to at subsequent meeting.