IPSA
Independent Parliamentary
Standards Authority

Consultation on a new Funding Scheme for MPs

November 2025

Contents

Consultation on a new Funding Scheme for MPs

Introduction

1. IPSA's Corporate Plan for 2024-27 describes our new approach to how we regulate, making the system stronger and simpler, more efficient and effective. This aims at reducing the administrative burden on MPs and their staff and helping us to target our support to those who need it most.

2. A key part of the new approach is a shift toward greater reliance on principles, rather than simple mechanistic rule-following, to achieve IPSA's regulatory objectives. This requires IPSA to communicate in a more sophisticated way about its expectations, while empowering MPs to make their own judgements about how to run their financial affairs, taking into account the expectations set out in principles, and supported by IPSA through guidance and advice. With increased flexibility in decision-making rightly comes greater accountability for MPs. IPSA will provide the guardrails for MPs to achieve those outcomes – to get it right first time.

3. The other key element is improving our ability to identify, understand and act on regulatory risks. This will allow IPSA to tailor support to MPs who need it most, and to intervene proportionately where the risk justifies it. We are continuing to develop our capacity to use data and intelligence to guide where we direct our regulatory effort. And, as explained later in this consultation document, we are strengthening the framework for regulatory intervention where ongoing non-compliance is identified.

4. Publication of the 2025-26 Scheme last March represented a key milestone in the evolution toward IPSA's new regulatory approach. The Scheme now includes clearer, more descriptive regulatory principles (Parliamentary purpose, Value for money, Integrity and Accountability). Other changes to the Scheme provide greater flexibility within the guardrails of the principles – for example, the removal of a longstanding restriction against using IPSA funding for parliamentary newsletters.

5. Supplementary guidance also reflects the shift toward principles-based thinking: for instance, MPs must have regard to a list of expectations, in line with the principles of Integrity and Value for Money, before accessing funding for accommodation. A new requirement is in place for MPs to sign a declaration form about potential conflicts of interest when taking on a new bought-in service.

6. Over the past year we also made significant progress in developing the frameworks and processes, as well as skills and culture amongst IPSA's people to be able to support MPs and their staff differently. We have spent time talking to our customers about the expectations of a principles-based system, so that

they can be confident in applying the principles to decisions made about use of IPSA funding.

7. The Scheme that will come into effect from April 2026 represents an even more significant departure from the past. It should be simple, streamlined and clear. It should set out the absolute requirements and exclusions that apply to IPSA funding of MPs' parliamentary activities; while also signifying IPSA's direction of travel away from prescriptive rules in favour of proportionate decision-making.

8. The proposed changes set out in this consultation reflect this shift.

How to respond

9. We are keen to hear the views of MPs, their staff, and our wider stakeholders on the proposed approach to the Scheme document as a whole, as well as the specific changes to policy. We consider this engagement a key part of allowing IPSA to meet its ambition of providing the seamless regulatory service to which our Corporate Plan commits.

10. We would also like to hear views about any positive or negative impacts on protected characteristic groups, feeding into an Equality Impact Assessment on the changes proposed in this consultation.

11. Please use our quick and easy online survey to submit your response. Please do not send us responses by post, as this may delay consideration of your views.

12. While you are strongly encouraged to respond using the online survey to ensure we can consider your response effectively, please contact us if you need reasonable adjustments to enable an alternative response. You should email us at consultation@theipsa.org.uk, and a member of our team will contact you to coordinate your response.

13. We will summarise the responses we receive when we publish our decisions. In doing so, we may refer to individual respondents and the content of their responses. We may also publish a list of who responded. **If you would like your response to be treated as confidential, please say so clearly in your response**. We will not quote from confidential responses or attribute the views in them to any particular respondent.

14. Whether your response is confidential or not, we will not publish your email address or any other contact details in compliance with data protection law and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more information about what we do with personal data, please visit our privacy notice.

15. **Please send us your response by 12 December 2025**.

Section 1: A new-look Scheme aligned to IPSA's regulatory approach

16. This section of the consultation covers how the new Scheme will look, what will be included and what will be moved to supplementary guidance.

17. While the Scheme has changed somewhat over time since its inception in 2010, many of the rules within it represent longstanding policy, and the document itself has remained fairly static in its organisation, format and length. However, the draft revised Scheme, attached at **Appendix 1**, looks quite different to past versions. This is a draft version and may not fully reflect the final version.

18. The new title 'The Funding Scheme for MPs' reflects IPSA's dual statutory role of supporting MPs' parliamentary work through funding and setting a regulatory scheme by which to administer this funding.

19. The document is also significantly shorter than previous iterations. This is in line with IPSA's strategic shift toward a principles-based approach, with greater scope and accountability of decision-making for MPs and less reliance on prescriptive rules. As part of a comprehensive review of the current Scheme, we have sought to identify the essential provisions needing to be contained within the Scheme, as well as opportunities for simplification and areas to be revisited with a view to introducing greater flexibility under a principles-based approach.

20. The draft Scheme is split into three sections:
    - **Part A: Our regulatory approach:** This section sets out the regulatory principles which MPs are expected to adhere to.
    - **Part B: Funding to support MPs' parliamentary work:** This section is designed to map the journey of an MP from entering office through to leaving office. Sub-sections include:
        1. Accessing IPSA Funding
        2. Restrictions on the use of IPSA funding
        3. Building a staff team
        4. Setting up an office
        5. Working from two locations
        6. Managing properties
        7. Business travel
        8. Additional support
        9. Leaving office
    - **Part C: Enforcement:** This section describes IPSA's approach to enforcement and the risk-based and proportionate application of

regulatory actions; and sets out the potential sanctions for serious and/or persistent non-compliance.

21. Much of the current content more appropriately sits in guidance and has been removed from the draft Scheme, including:

- Explanatory and descriptive information, for example on IPSA processes
- Operational requirements, such as deadlines and required documentation
- Specific figures including budget figures, cost limits and staff salary ranges
- The list of London Area constituencies and Outer London Area constituencies.

22. This streamlining of the document should mean that in future the Scheme will not need to be updated as often; it will remain as a stable framework for MPs and their staff to work with.

23. Meanwhile, IPSA will be able to keep supporting guidance up to date and responsive to new queries and issues. We believe that using guidance in a more dynamic way will mean we are better able to support MPs and their staff.

24. The guidance will include, where applicable, explanatory information on the Scheme and other policies, specific information on figures such as budgets, examples of scenarios, links to external guidance and links to required IPSA forms such as the recently introduced declaration form for bought-in services. Updated guidance will be published alongside the new Scheme.

Question 1: Do you have any comments on the overall approach to the draft Scheme?

25. The following sections set out the specific changes in policy that we are seeking views on. Given the new approach described above, not all of these relate to provisions in the Scheme itself, and some will impact instead on supporting guidance.

Section 2: New provisions in the draft Scheme

26. This section of the consultation covers proposed new provisions which appear in the draft revised Scheme in parts B and C.

27. Part A includes the regulatory principles that were consulted on last year and no further changes are proposed in this consultation.

Part B: Funding to support MPs' parliamentary work

28. Not all sections in part B of the draft revised Scheme have proposed changes to policy. The proposed changes are outlined below.

Restrictions on the use of IPSA funding

MPs as suppliers

29. As part of IPSA's comprehensive review of the existing Scheme, we have considered the absolute restrictions which flow from the regulatory principles. In relation to the principle of Integrity, the draft Scheme includes a restriction on the use of IPSA funding for costs where another MP is the supplier or landlord.

30. This builds on existing restrictions which prevent the MP who is requesting the funding, as well as their connected parties, from being suppliers or landlords in respect of the requested funds. It is also consistent with the restriction introduced in April 2025 against any new IPSA-funded accommodation tenancies where the landlord is another MP. To reduce disruption, any existing arrangements would be allowed to run their course.

Question 2: Do you agree that the Scheme should explicitly prohibit MPs from using IPSA funding where the supplier of services or landlord is another MP?

Building a staff team

Reward and recognition payments

31. MPs can make reward and recognition payments to their staff members in recognition of outstanding performance. Whether to make such a payment is left to the MP's discretion but there is currently a limit of £1,000 per staff member per year. This is essentially an arbitrary threshold, based on IPSA's assessment of a reasonable amount for such a payment.

32. However, we are seeking views on whether such a limit remains appropriate. In the absence of a limit, the MP would need to make a decision about the level of reward and recognition payments made to their staff, while ensuring they have

complied with the regulatory principles – in particular, Integrity and Value for Money. They would be ultimately accountable for justifying such a decision if challenged. They would also need to ensure they remain within budget.

Question 3: Should IPSA remove the £1,000 limit, per staff member per year, on reward and recognition payments?

Working from two locations

Increasing flexibility for Outer London MPs

33. Of the 650 parliamentary constituencies across the UK, 98 are defined by IPSA to be in the London Area. Broadly speaking, these are partly or wholly within a 20-mile radius of Westminster. Of the 98, 23 constituencies are considered to be in the 'Outer London Area'. The other 552 constituencies are classed as non-London Area constituencies. **Appendix 2** includes a list of the Outer London Area constituencies.

34. MPs representing a non-London Area constituency are eligible to receive funding for accommodation in order to work from two locations, their constituency and Westminster. Most use this funding on a rental property, although some opt for hotel stays as and when needed, or for running costs on a property that they own. Accommodation can only be funded in one location; in the other, the MP is expected to maintain a home at their own personal cost.

35. MPs representing a constituency within the London Area, on the other hand, are not eligible to receive funding for accommodation, but they can receive a London Area Living Payment (LALP) to account for the higher cost of living and travelling in London. This is paid through the payroll and taxed as income.

36. The changes to constituency boundaries which took effect at the 2024 General Election (based on recommendations from the Boundary Commissions) have impacted constituencies within the London Area, and we recognised that some slight anomalies have emerged due to shifting boundaries: for example, there are a few London Area constituencies with only a very small portion within the 20-mile radius, as well as on the other hand, some non-London constituencies with a greater portion located within 20 miles than previously.

37. Since the election, we have received some feedback about the difficulties MPs representing Outer London constituencies can face, due to long hours in Westminster, combined with long off-peak journeys back to their homes. In some cases, this is putting a strain on their family lives and ability to carry out their caring responsibilities.

38. We have considered several options, including whether it would be preferable to redefine the London Area based on commuting times; however, in many cases this would depend on where within the constituency an MP lives and would likely result in an overly complicated framework, where our customers would benefit from clarity and simplicity.

39. Instead, we are proposing a change to allow MPs in the Outer London Area to opt to receive an accommodation budget for either rented or hotel accommodation, while forgoing the LALP. The decision would be for an individual MP to consider whether they can justify this use of taxpayer's money in light of their circumstances, the experience of ordinary working citizens and IPSA's regulatory principles. MPs who took up this option would in effect be treated in line with non-London MPs.

Question 4: Do you agree that the Scheme should allow flexibility for Outer London MPs to choose between receiving accommodation funding and receiving the London Area Living Payment?

Business travel

European travel for MP staff members

40. Under current rules, IPSA does not provide funding for staff members to travel outside of the UK for parliamentary purposes. MPs can seek funding for travel to other countries in Europe, but cannot have any of their staff accompany them

41. However, we think it is right to remove this restriction and leave scope for the MP to decide what travel by their staff members is necessary to support their parliamentary work. The MP would need to ensure they have due regard to the Value for Money principle and ultimately would be accountable for justifying their decision if challenged.

Question 5: Do you agree that the restriction on funding for MPs' staff members to travel to other countries in Europe for parliamentary purposes should be removed?

Part C: Enforcement

Taking regulatory action

42. While IPSA's new regulatory approach seeks to increase flexibility for MPs , it is also concerned with ensuring accountability of MPs where they do not meet IPSA's expectations. We are continuing to improve our capacity to use data and intelligence to identify regulatory risks and instances of non-compliance. We are

strengthening the framework for regulatory intervention where ongoing non-compliance is identified.

43. Last year we consulted on our new risk-based approach and have developed further potential enforcement provisions following this.

44. Our priority is to support compliance through excellent customer service. In nearly all cases, the appropriate response from IPSA will be in the form of additional support, advice and education – for example, where an MP's office exhibits a lack of awareness or understanding of IPSA's expectations.

45. Where the risk is higher, some cases may call for stronger actions to protect public money, such as restrictions on an MP's use of the IPSA payment card or other funding routes. At the most serious end of the spectrum, instances of repeated and wilful non-compliance may warrant even more robust action as set out in the draft Scheme, up to and including:

    - A letter of concern or letter of non-compliance from a Director or the CEO, which may be published;
    - Referral to the Compliance Officer for IPSA;
    - Referral to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, or other appropriate regulator;
    - Where there is evidence of criminality, referral to the police.

Question 6: Do you have any comments regarding IPSA's use of regulatory actions, including the ones described above, in response to serious, persistent and/or wilful non-compliance?

Section 3: Proposed changes to be included in guidance

46. This section of the consultation covers proposed changes to arrangements which do not appear in the draft Scheme but would be reflected in updated guidance.

Deadline for submitting funding requests and review requests

47. The current Scheme rules require requests for funding to be submitted within 90 days of the cost being incurred. While this is significantly longer than many workplaces allow for submission of reimbursement requests, it recognises that MPs' costs – for example rental and running costs for their office – are much higher in volume and complexity than those of an average employee working for a company.

48. However, there are clear benefits to MPs and their staff of more prompt submission – for instance, having a more up-to-date picture of spend against budget, as well as minimising the amount of time they are out of pocket before receiving reimbursement. Most MPs' offices do submit funding requests within a much shorter timeframe; recent data shows this to be around 30 days on average.

49. We are proposing to shorten the timeline for submitting funding requests to 30 days, which we expect could be met in nearly all circumstances. At the same time, we understand that there are various reasons why an office would be unable to meet this deadline, including late billing from suppliers, and we would take a proportionate approach, as we currently do, to providing funding where there is a robust explanation for why the normal deadline could not be met.

50. The current Scheme also sets a deadline in respect of review requests; where IPSA refuses a funding request, MPs have up to 14 days to request a review of this decision. In practice however, IPSA has performed reviews of its decisions on request, including outside of this deadline, to ensure MPs have a route of appeal where funding requests are refused. We are proposing to remove this deadline.

Question 7: Do you agree that IPSA should remove the prescriptive deadline for funding requests?

Question 8: Do you agree that IPSA should remove the prescriptive deadline for review requests?

Dependants turning 18

51. IPSA provides additional financial support to MPs who have caring responsibilities for a dependant (including children under the age of 18 or other cared-for adult family members), in recognition of the unique challenges that arise while living in two locations. For MPs representing a constituency outside the London Area, this includes additional funding where they have dependants for whom they need to provide accommodation.

52. At the point a dependant ceases to meet the criteria for registration – most commonly, where they turn 18 – under the current arrangements, the MP can continue to use the additional funding for the remainder of that financial year. However, this has the unintended impact of benefitting or disadvantaging MPs solely based on when their dependant's birthday falls. An MP whose dependant turns 18 on 2 April, for instance, would benefit from additional funding for nearly a full year; while an MP whose dependant turns 18 on 30 March would have only one day before they revert to the standard accommodation budget.

53. In the interests of more equitable and fair treatment, we are proposing a change which would allow for the same transitional period of six months for all MPs with a dependant who turns 18. This would also apply in other circumstances where a dependant ceases to meet the criteria for registration.

Question 9: Do you agree that an equal transitional period of six months should be applied to an MP's eligibility for increased accommodation funding when a dependant is turning 18 (or otherwise ceases to meet the criteria for registration)?

Home-based staff

54. MPs' staff members employed on a home-based contract receive a homeworking allowance (at the prevailing rate set by HMRC), to cover some of the additional costs that may arise as a result of working from home rather than in an office, such as additional energy costs. The allowance is paid by default, but staff may also be opted out of receiving it, and in that case may then request reimbursement for such costs.

55. While such reimbursement requests have been relatively few, they are burdensome for staff members to submit, due to the requirement for evidence to demonstrate the marginal additional costs related to homeworking, as opposed to normal running costs of the home. Data shows that very few staff have taken the option of submitting reimbursement claims, preferring the simplicity of the homeworking allowance which is paid by default.

56. We are proposing as a way of simplifying the arrangements that IPSA will only pay the allowance and remove the option for reimbursement.

Question 10: Do you agree that the arrangements for home-based staff should be simplified by limiting the options to the homeworking allowance only and removing the possibility to seek reimbursement for homeworking costs?

Section 4: Equality Impact Assessment

57. IPSA's Scheme and guidance need to be sufficiently flexible to take into account the diverse working patterns adopted by MPs and not unduly deter representation from any section of society. This is in addition to our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010.

58. We welcome views about whether any of the proposals in this consultation could have an impact, positive or negative, on equality and diversity in relation to MPs and their staff. We also welcome responses about how the current Scheme is operating with regard to equality and diversity.

Question 11: What likely or actual impact do you believe the Scheme and matters raised in this consultation may have on equality and diversity in relation to MPs and their staff?

Appendix 1: Draft Funding Scheme for MPs

The Funding Scheme for MPs

19th Edition

X March 2026

Contents

The Funding Scheme for MPs

19th Edition

Introduction

The MPs' Funding Scheme ('the Scheme') is made by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) in the exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 5(3)(a) of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009.

This Scheme is intended to ensure that MPs' use of taxpayers' money is well-regulated, and that MPs are resourced appropriately to carry out their parliamentary functions.

Where reference is made to 'MP' this also includes Former MPs when leaving office.

The principles and rules in this Scheme must be read in conjunction with guidance published by IPSA, which can be found on IPSA's website (www.ipsaonline.org.uk).

IPSA may in its discretion determine to vary application of the rules set out in this Scheme, where this is a proportionate action in response to changing circumstances. In doing so, IPSA will take into consideration official guidance (where relevant) and will provide reasonable notice of any change and the reasons behind such decisions, to be communicated to MPs and their staff members and published in guidance.

Information relating to the funding provided under this Scheme is published in accordance with IPSA's Publication Policy.

Part A – Our regulatory approach

As holders of public office, MPs must also act in line with the Seven Principles of Public Life and the Code of Conduct for MPs at all times.

Regulatory principles

In requesting and using public funds through the Scheme, MPs must adhere to the following principles.

Principle 1: Parliamentary purpose

- MPs may only access IPSA funding for costs they or their staff incur as a result of their parliamentary functions.
- MPs must not use funding in support of any electoral campaigning, political party or other outside organisation.
- MPs must not use funding for costs relating to activities that are explicitly or primarily aimed at promotion of their own political profile.
- MPs must ensure there is no other more appropriate source before seeking IPSA funding.

Principle 2: Value for money

- MPs must take proportionate steps to achieve value for money in all decisions made about the use of IPSA funding.
- MPs are expected to exhibit good financial management, including in planning their expenditure to ensure, insofar as possible, they are able to remain within the budgets provided to them by IPSA.
- MPs should ensure they have staff supporting them with a good understanding of financial and budget management.

Principle 3: Integrity

- MPs must be objective in their decisions about how they spend IPSA funding, including in choosing suppliers of good and services.
- MPs' decisions must not be aimed at gaining financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, friends, political associates or other connected individuals.
- MPs must be able to show they have considered perceived or real conflict of interest; and that they have not been influenced in their decisions about using IPSA funding by any interest or relationship.

Principle 4: Accountability

- MPs are accountable for their decisions and must be prepared to explain how they have assured themselves that their actions are in line with IPSA's rules, guidance and regulatory principles.
- MPs must accept their responsibilities as employers, adhering to good employment practices and seeking expert advice as needed.
- MPs are responsible for overseeing the actions of their staff members and, to the extent that could reasonably be expected, ensuring their staff use IPSA funding in line with IPSA's rules, guidance and regulatory principles.
- MPs must deal with IPSA in an open and cooperative way and must provide information relating to their staffing and business costs that IPSA would reasonably need to perform its statutory functions.

Part B – Funding to support MPs' parliamentary work

1 Accessing IPSA funding

1.1 IPSA provides funding to MPs to support them in their parliamentary work. In making a request for funding under the Scheme, MPs must certify that the expenditure was for the performance of their parliamentary functions, and that in incurring the expenditure they have complied with the Scheme.

1.2 IPSA will set out in guidance any budget limits which apply for the relevant financial year, as well as any limits on certain expenditure within each budget category. IPSA may reduce budgets proportionately when they are made available to MPs after the start of the year or are closed before the end of the year. MPs are responsible for planning, forecasting and managing their budgets using the tools made available by IPSA.

1.3 IPSA will set out its methods for providing funding in guidance, including requirements which MPs must meet in order to request funding using those methods.

1.4 Where IPSA refuses a funding request, MPs may request IPSA to review its determination. If MPs disagree with the outcome of a review, they may request that it is reviewed by the Compliance Officer for IPSA, in line with the relevant procedures.

2 Restrictions on the use of IPSA funding

2.1 In complying with this Scheme, MPs may exercise discretion over their use of IPSA funding. At all times, this discretion must be exercised reasonably, taking account of the regulatory principles in Part A.

2.2 MPs are responsible for ensuring, in their role as an employer of their staff and with regard to their use of IPSA funding, that they comply with the relevant legal and regulatory frameworks that apply to them.

2.3 In line with the principle of **Parliamentary purpose**, no IPSA funding will be provided for the following:

- attendance at political party conferences or meetings
- work which is conducted for or at the behest of a political party
- activities relating to reviews of parliamentary constituency boundaries
- activities whose purpose is to give MPs a campaigning advantage in general elections and referendums
- work relating to delegations to an international assembly

- work relating to the performance of ministerial functions
- costs of a personal nature, including financial or tax advice.

2.4 In line with the principle of **Integrity**, no IPSA funding may be used by MPs for:

- rent, fees or other payment where the MP, another MP or a connected party is the supplier or landlord
- The purchase of alcohol.

2.5 In line with the principle of **Value for money**, no IPSA funding may be used by MPs for:

- penalty charges or other avoidable charges, such as those for late payments
- costs that are insured or can be funded from other sources.

3 Building a staff team

3.1 Funding is provided to enable MPs to recruit, employ and develop staff who support them in their parliamentary functions. IPSA also administers payroll for staff members on behalf of MPs.

3.2 MPs must ensure they are aware of relevant legislation relating to employment status, for the purpose of establishing statutory employment rights, as well as the correct payment of tax and National Insurance contributions. MPs are responsible for seeking and adhering to employment advice and good practice in all aspects of their dealings with staff. IPSA may withhold funding where costs arise as a result of the MP's failure to comply with advice of the House of Commons Members' HR Service.

3.3 In order for staff salaries, employer pension and National Insurance contributions to be funded by IPSA, the following conditions apply:

- the member of staff is employed on a contract which complies with the IPSA model contract of employment
- they have a job description which complies with the model job descriptions published by IPSA
- they are paid in line with the relevant salary range published by IPSA
- they meet any applicable vetting requirements.

3.4 MPs must not use IPSA funding for the employment of a connected party, unless that person was already employed on 8 June 2017.

3.5 IPSA may allow staffing loans between MPs' offices, in accordance with the requirements set out in guidance.

3.6 IPSA will not accept any requests for payments to staff or other payroll changes which will take the MP over the relevant budget limit for the year.

3.7 An allowance is payable to MPs' staff members who are employed on home-based contracts, to cover homeworking costs such as telephone, internet, electricity and gas usage.

3.8 IPSA will recognise a staff member's service in a past employment, for the purpose of certain occupational entitlements, subject to parameters set out in guidance. The arrangements for recognition of past service do not apply to individuals working on casual contracts or volunteers.

3.9 Where registered volunteers assist with an MP's duties, funding may be sought to cover incidental expenses including reasonable travel and food which are incurred as a result of parliamentary activity.

4 Setting up an office

4.1 Funding is provided to enable MPs to meet the costs of renting, equipping and running MPs' constituency offices, surgeries, communicating with constituents and other activities which support their parliamentary functions. Additional funding may be provided to newly elected MPs to assist with setting up their office.

4.2 In addition to rental costs, funding may be requested for business rates, utilities, telephone and internet, and other running costs on a constituency office. MPs who routinely work from home may also request funding for the proportion of utility costs incurred as a result of homeworking.

4.3 Where an MP grants a licence or gives permission to another person to use the constituency office or any part of it (such as a subletting arrangement), they must charge a fee reflecting an appropriate proportion of the rent and other costs incurred and must pay this to IPSA in its entirety.

5 Working from two locations

5.1 Funding for parliamentary accommodation is provided to MPs representing a constituency outside the London Area, with the exception of those who occupy 'grace and favour' accommodation in London by virtue of a particular office held. MPs must have regard to IPSA guidance on accessing funding for accommodation consistently with the principle of Integrity, before requesting funding for such costs.

5.2 MPs may use IPSA funding for accommodation in either the constituency or London (but can only do so for one location), including:

- hotel accommodation;
- for rented accommodation, rental payments and associated costs; or
- for MPs who own their property, associated costs only.

5.3 Where MPs have sought funding for rent and/or associated costs, they must be resident at the property and may not sublet any part of it.

5.4 IPSA may provide additional funding to enable MPs to maintain their family and caring responsibilities.

5.5 No funding will be provided for personal costs related to living in an accommodation, such as cleaning, gardening, television licences/services, furniture or household items.

MPs for London Area and Outer London Area constituencies

5.6 MPs representing a constituency in the London Area are not eligible for accommodation funding but may request the London Area Living Payment (LALP), which is intended to contribute towards the additional cost of living in the London Area.

5.7 MPs representing Outer London Area constituencies may request either the Outer London LALP amount; or funding for accommodation. Outer London MPs who opt for accommodation funding will be subject to the arrangements that apply to non-London MPs.

5.8 No MP who occupies 'grace and favour' accommodation in London by virtue of any particular office held may receive the LALP or Outer London LALP.

6 Managing properties

6.1 MPs may only use IPSA funding for rent and other costs on an accommodation or office property if it has been registered with IPSA in accordance with its requirements. MPs are responsible for keeping this registration up to date.

6.2 IPSA may seek a valuation to confirm the market rental rate for a property which is funded by IPSA, in any circumstances where it considers it appropriate.

6.3 MPs may apply to IPSA for a loan to cover a deposit payable at the commencement of a tenancy. This amount must be repaid in full to IPSA when the tenancy comes to an end or where the MP leaves Parliament, by the deadline set by IPSA. The MP is responsible for any shortfall between the deposit paid and the amount returned.

6.4 MPs may also apply for a loan for a holding deposit before the start of the tenancy. Holding deposit loans must be repaid to IPSA or recovered via other means, by the required deadline.

7 Business travel

7.1 Funding is provided to cover travel and travel-related subsistence when in support of the MP's parliamentary functions.

Travel by MPs

7.2 MPs may request funding for the following types of parliamentary journeys:

- journeys between London and the MP's constituency
- journeys within the MP's constituency
- journeys to another UK location
- journeys to other countries in Europe.

7.3 No funding will be provided to cover MPs' routine commute, meaning the journey between their constituency office and constituency residence or between Westminster and their London Area residence, or for any other personal travel.

7.4 MPs may request funding for overnight hotel stays where they have travelled for parliamentary reasons and it would be unreasonable to return to either their constituency or London Area residence.

7.5 MPs who have been working late on parliamentary matters may request funding for a taxi to their London Area residence or for an overnight stay in a hotel.

Travel by staff members

7.6 Staff members are eligible for funding to cover travel, provided this is in the performance of their role, occasional and for specific purposes.

7.7 No funding will be provided to cover staff members' commutes between their home and normal place of work, the routine journey to a second place of work, or any other personal travel.

7.8 Staff members may request funding for overnight hotel stays where they have travelled for parliamentary reasons and it would be unreasonable to return home. They may also purchase food and non-alcoholic drinks when travelling away from their normal place of work, in line with guidance.

Travel by MPs’ family members

7.9 MPs who have registered a spouse/partner and/or dependants with IPSA may request funding for them to travel between the MP’s constituency and London. Where a dependant needs assistance from a carer while travelling, the cost of the carer’s travel may also be funded.

8 Additional support

Disability assistance

8.1 Funding will be provided to cover the cost of reasonable workplace adjustments for people with disabilities including the MP, staff members, volunteers, job applicants or constituents visiting the office or a surgery.

MP and staff absence

8.2 Where MPs take time off after the birth or adoption of a child, or for other reasons such as an illness, IPSA will fund cover for their office during the period of absence.

8.3 IPSA will also provide additional funding to cover payroll costs where staff members are on a period of leave, including maternity, paternity or adoption leave; long-term sick leave; or on mandatory training in connection with their role as armed forces reservists.

Exceptional funding

8.4 In exceptional circumstances and following application by an MP, IPSA may provide additional funding where the MP has exceeded a particular budget or cost limit for the year; or where they have incurred a cost outside of the Scheme but which they consider to be in support of their parliamentary functions.

8.5 IPSA may, at its discretion and on an individual basis, provide any additional financial assistance to MPs it deems necessary to assist them in carrying out their parliamentary functions.

9 Leaving office

9.1 Where an MP leaves office, they may request business funding under this Scheme for costs incurred after leaving Parliament, during the winding-up period as defined in guidance. Former MPs are expected to wind up their office in a way that minimises the cost to the taxpayer. IPSA may set restrictions on such funding in guidance.

9.2 Former MPs who leave Parliament at a general election will be eligible to receive a winding-up payment.

9.3 In addition, former MPs who lose their seat at a general election – meaning they stood for re-election but were unsuccessful – will be eligible to receive a loss-of-office payment.

9.4 In exceptional cases, IPSA may delay payment until after former MPs have made certain arrangements to wind up their affairs.

Part C – Enforcement

Repayment of money to IPSA

MPs will be required to make repayments to IPSA in circumstances including, but not limited to:

- where they have been provided funding that IPSA subsequently determines should not have been paid;
- where they have exceeded their budget in a particular category of spending; or
- where repayment is agreed with or directed by the Compliance Officer for IPSA following an investigation.

If repayments are not made by a communicated deadline, IPSA will make arrangements to recover the amount. This may include deducting amounts owed from an MP's salary.

IPSA may recover debts directly from MPs or may work with MPs to recover debts from third parties where appropriate.

Taking regulatory action

IPSA's priority is to support MPs and their staff members to understand their responsibilities in relation to this Scheme and to comply with its principles, rules and guidance. Where non-compliance is identified, regulatory actions will be applied in a targeted and proportionate way, based on the circumstances and assessment of risk.

In cases of persistent, serious and/or wilful non-compliance with this Scheme and supplementary guidance, IPSA will take more significant regulatory action, potentially including:

- restricting an MP's use of IPSA funding for certain types of costs or through certain mechanisms
- a letter of concern or letter of non-compliance, which may be published
- referral to the Compliance Officer for IPSA
- referral to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards or other appropriate regulator
- where there is evidence of criminality, referral to the police.

Appendix 2: List of Outer London Area constituencies

For the purposes of the Scheme, from the day after Polling Day – 5 July 2024 – the Outer London Area constituencies are:

Outer London Area constituencies	
Beaconsfield	Reigate
Brentwood and Ongar	Runnymede and Weybridge
Broxbourne	Sevenoaks
Dartford	Slough
Dorking and Horley	South West Hertfordshire
East Surrey	Spelthorne
Epping Forest	St Albans
Epsom and Ewell	Thurrock
Esher and Walton	Watford
Harlow	Welwyn Hatfield
Hertford and Stortford	Windsor
Hertsmere	