

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 March 2021 16:47
To: Lee Bridges
Subject: RE: M Hill Tracking ID:0284000296

Thanks. I asked [REDACTED] (who had a call with Mr Hill today) to ask about the description of services on the invoice, because they say something about conducting an 'investigation', while the ICGS would have its own investigation procedures already in place. He has confirmed that the legal fees were in relation to 'representing and advocating on his behalf'. I'm not sure if that changes anything?

It does feel a bit uncomfortable, but as you say it's hard to argue that it isn't directly related to his role as an employer.

[REDACTED]

Might be worth flagging at tomorrow's directorate stand up?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

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From: Lee Bridges [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 March 2021
To: [REDACTED]
Sub

I have had a long chat with Ian about it.

On reflection, in spite of the reputational and ethical dilemma we cannot see a reason under the Scheme to not reimburse these costs given that the advice was provided to Mike Hill about a complaint that arose due to the employment relationship that existed between him and the complainant. It is not clear cut though, as we have discussed and Ian's suggestion was that if it were possible for advice to be taken from us before incurring similar costs in the future then that would be helpful.

Lee

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 March 2021 10:39
To: Lee Bridges <Lee.Bridges@theipsa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: M Hill Tracking ID:0284000296

Hi Lee, I think you were going to mention this to Ian before we go back to the MP – not sure if you've had a chance to?

We've also now had a query about whether the office manager can claim for travel costs to attend the tribunal. I think that's a more straightforward one, i.e. if it's related to her job then it should be eligible to claim.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 March 2021 14:51
To: Lee Bridges <lee.bridges@theipsa.org.uk> [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: M Hill Tracking ID:0284000296

Hi both, Mike Hill's office has asked about claiming for legal costs relating to the complaint made by the MP's member of staff. You'll recall there was some media coverage of the fact that he had made a claim for the £2k EPL insurance excess. Thought I would flag as this feels quite risky.

We would normally allow claims where an MP has brought in an independent person to investigate a complaint or grievance. But as this was dealt with by the ICGS, there wouldn't have been any need for that, and presumably the legal costs were specifically about defending the MP against the allegation. (Any legal costs relating to the actual tribunal would have been covered by EPL.)

Let me know your thoughts. Lee – from your experience, is it normal for lawyers to be involved in the ICGS process?

To note, we have funded legal costs in other cases – e.g. one where a claim against the MP was brought by a constituent, for which contingency funding was approved.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: IPSA Info [Mailbox] <Info@theipsa.org.uk>
Sent: 24 March 2021 09:46
To: [REDACTED]
Sub

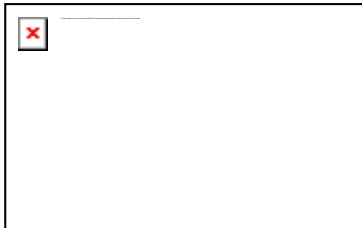
Hi [REDACTED]

As you will know, Mike Hill has stood down as an MP. He had incurred legal costs during his time as an MP in the process of defending a complaint against him from a former member of staff.

The invoices from the solicitor is attached. His Office Manager would like to know whether these costs would be claimable. Can you advise what our position would be?

Kind regards,

[Redacted]



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The financial year ends on 31 March and there are important deadlines to complete the year-end process. [Click here](#) to access information and guidance.

We are working remotely until further notice. Information and guidance is available on our [information website](#). MPs and staff can book a call with a member of the MP Support or Payroll teams [here](#).

From [Redacted]
Received: 23/03/2021 14:34
To: <Enquiry>
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: M Hill

For the attention [Redacted]

Good afternoo [Redacted]

Following on from our phone conversation this morning, re Mr Hills legal costs.

Mr Hill incurred these costs defending a complaint against him. This complaint was made to the ICGS by a former member of staff and from his time as a sitting MP.

Please see attached, two invoices from Hudgell solicitors, which are for £5,000 + 20% VAT. The total cost Mr Hill would like to claim is £12,000.

Could you please let me know if Mr Hill is able to claim this amount and if yes, from which budget should it come from.


Regards

[Redacted]



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