

BOARD PAPER	
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OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE

DATE: 28 June 2023

SUBJECT: Strategic Communications – Improving IPSA Programme

PURPOSE: For discussion

ANNEX C Practical implementation – communicating LOOP/Winding Up decision

Issue

1. The decisions taken by the Board at the meeting on 28 June 2023 provide an opportunity to approach the communications of the Scheme consultation outcome in a more proactive way. This annex sets out what IPSA could do to announce the details, based on the new approach.

Timing

2. Due to the boundary changes, it is important that any revisions to the rules around loss of office and winding up payments are shared with stakeholders in July 2023, in order to help inform their decisions, particularly for those MPs considering whether to stand down or who may stand again but are at risk of losing their seats.

Timeline

3. In the first week of July, meetings should be held with senior stakeholders to inform them of the Board decisions. Letters should also be prepared to formally tell statutory consultees about the outcome of the consultation.
4. On Thursday 6 July IPSA's Chair and Chief Executive meet with the Speaker and can inform him of the Board's decision.
5. On Thursday 13 July, a Bulletin will be sent to all MPs and their staff explaining what the changes are, and launching the revised Scheme.
6. A press notice will be issued shortly after MPs are told setting out the main changes.

Key messages

7. Changes will deliver better value for the taxpayer by winding-up MPs more quickly.
8. Changes will give MPs staff greater certainty about when they will leave their jobs.
9. All the changes were made following a public consultation where we listened to the feedback from the public and others who responded.

Media availability

10. The press notice will make clear that IPSA's senior staff are available for interview requests to discuss the changes to winding-up payments and explain the reasons we have made the changes.
11. The Times Red Box will be approached about an article to appear the following day, and we will contact the major political podcasts to offer interviews with the IPSA Chair.

Potential criticism

12. Some criticism of IPSA's decision is possible, particularly if the new arrangements are seen as being 'more generous' to MPs, especially standing down ones, by continuing to 'pay' them for a longer period after they have left Parliament.
13. It is likely that a calculation would be made based on the revised number of months that MPs will get for a winding-up payment, along the lines of 'MPs to get extra £5000 tax-free golden goodbye when they leave Parliament'.
14. To help address this, media training could be held for the Chair, CEO and Directors in advance of the announcement. A detailed Q&A on the changes will be compiled, along with a blog for the IPSA website.

Future announcements

15. Some of these new approaches could also be used in autumn 2023 when the public consultation phase of the regulatory review is launched.

Discussion

16. The Board are invited to offer their views.

ANNEX 3: Practical implementation – communicating LOOP/Winding Up decision

Issue

1. The decisions taken by the Board at the meeting on 28 June 2023 provide an opportunity to approach the communications of the Scheme consultation outcome in a more proactive way. This annex sets out what IPSA could do to announce the details, based on the new approach.

Timing

2. Due to the boundary changes, it is important that any revisions to the rules around loss of office and winding up payments are shared with stakeholders in July 2023, in order to help inform their decisions, particularly for those MPs considering whether to stand down or who may stand again but are at risk of losing their seats.

Timeline

3. In the first week of July, meetings should be held with senior stakeholders to inform them of the Board decisions. Letters should also be prepared to formally tell statutory consultees about the outcome of the consultation.
4. On Thursday 6 July IPSA's Chair and Chief Executive meet with the Speaker and can inform him of the Board's decision.
5. On Wednesday 19 July, a Bulletin will be sent to all MPs and their staff explaining what the changes are, and launching the revised Scheme.
6. A press notice will be issued shortly after MPs are told setting out the main changes.

Key messages

7. Changes will deliver better value for the taxpayer by winding-up MPs more quickly.
8. Changes will give MPs staff greater certainty about when they will leave their jobs.
9. All the changes were made following a public consultation where we listened to the feedback from the public and others who responded.

Media availability

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Discussion

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