

# Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority

## Newsletter, March 2020

We are now three months on from the General Election. Throughout the period our role is to help the 155 departing MPs and their 737 former staff to wind up their parliamentary business, support the 155 new MPs and their staff to start their new roles, and provide continued support to the 545 returning MPs, while ensuring that taxpayers' money is being spent appropriately to support their important parliamentary work.

One of our tasks after every election is to fulfil our statutory duty to review MPs' remuneration in the first year of each Parliament. In 2015 we implemented the results of a comprehensive review of MPs' pay. We decided from then on to adjust MPs' pay in line changes in public sector earnings as published by the [Office of National Statistics](#) (ONS). This approach was confirmed after the 2017 election. As such, from April 2020, we will increase MPs' pay by 3.1 per cent to £81,932, in line with the change in public sector earnings announced by the ONS last month. Further details can be found [here](#).

In December 2019, we published our [Annual Reports and Accounts](#). Our Interim Chair, [Richard Lloyd OBE](#), acknowledged that 2019 was a milestone year for IPSA in which we moved office, hosted the world's first conference for parliamentary regulators and launched of the new online paperless expenses and finance system for MPs. Throughout this, and the General Election, we have regulated MPs' spending effectively, with compliance rates at over 99.9 per cent of claims in accordance with our [Scheme of MPs' Business Costs and Expenses](#). We regularly publish all MPs' claims for business costs, with the latest publication today found [here](#).

This newsletter contains information on the following:

- Assurance Review: MPs' use of their IPSA payment card

- Policy Review: Funding for MPs' staff
- International meetings
- Expenses data

With best wishes

Marcial Boo  
**CEO**

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**[Assurance review: MPs' use of their IPSA payment card](#)**



**Assurance Review: MPs' use of their IPSA payment card**

Analysis of expenditure and compliance

IPSA's [Scheme of MPs' Business Costs and Expenses](#) states that MPs can use a Government procurement card, known as a payment card, to pay for any business cost or expense allowable under the Scheme.

This report sets out the findings of IPSA's review into MPs' use of their IPSA payment card. We found that overall compliance is high although the review did make recommendations which we have addressed with a new payment card policy.

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## Policy review: Funding for MPs' staff

In 2019 we carried out a review of funding for MPs' staff. The review found that demands on MPs' offices were high and salary levels were below comparable roles elsewhere, based on independent benchmarked evidence carried out by [Hays](#). As a result, we have provided additional funding in MPs' 2020-21 staffing budgets for staff training and welfare, security, and changes to the salary bands and job descriptions for MPs' staff.

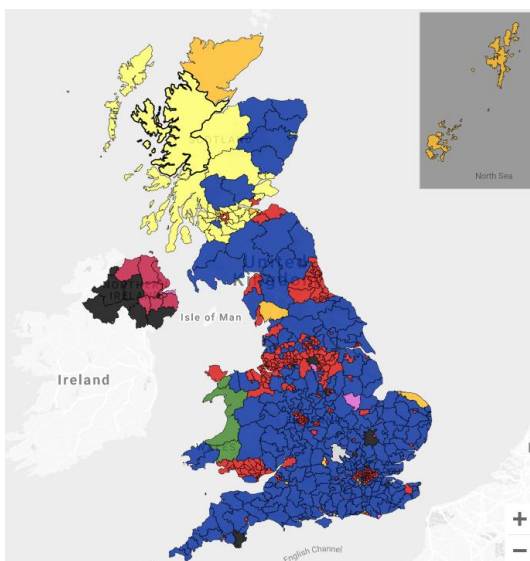
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## International Meetings



In February, IPSA met with representatives from the Moroccan Parliament organised by the [Westminster Foundation for Democracy](#) and representatives from the Albanian Parliament.

The meetings were an excellent opportunity to share knowledge and experience of parliamentary regulation.



## MP Expenses Data

Since IPSA was created in 2010, we have published data on MP spending every 2 months. The annual data for 2018-19 was published on 19 December 2019 and can be viewed [here](#). IPSA's annual review of assurance can be found [here](#).

You can access the data on IPSA's website [here](#).

If you have any queries about the information in this newsletter, please  
contact [communications@theipsa.org.uk](mailto:communications@theipsa.org.uk)