

19 July 2018

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IPSA's Annual Report and Accounts 2017/18

IPSA has today published its Annual Report and Accounts for the 2017/18 financial year. The report covers the key activities undertaken by IPSA during the financial year 2017/18. Printed copies have been laid in the House, and the full report can also be viewed on the IPSA website <u>here</u>.

IPSA Annual Survey and General Election Survey 2017

Every year, IPSA asks MPs and staff to answer questions about IPSA's service. Also last year, IPSA interviewed a number of MPs and their staff to find out more about their perspectives on the 2017 General Election and the service provided by IPSA. These reports are both available to read on the IPSA website <u>here</u>.

IPSA Online

During the last month, we have trained over 150 MPs and their staff on the new 'IPSA Online' system. They have strongly welcomed its improved functionality and ease of use. Their feedback also suggested that we should launch the new system after the party conferences rather than over the summer. We are working on that basis, and expect to communicate the exact launch date later in the summer, including details of the period when we will turn off the current claims system.

There are still 10 dates for IPSA Online training sessions to help you prepare for the launch of the new system later this year. If you haven't already attended the training, please select a date and register using the links below. We will be adding extra training dates in September.

London, Friday 20 July London, Tuesday 24 July Bristol, Wednesday 25 July London, Thursday 26 July London, Friday 27 July Edinburgh, Wednesday 1 August Leeds, Wednesday 8 August Manchester, Wednesday 15 August Birmingham, Wednesday 22 August Swansea, Wednesday 12 September

IPSA's Publication Scheme

We have today published the revised edition of our Publication Scheme, which sets out what IPSA will and will not publish about MPs' business costs and expenses. Following a public consultation held between 10 May and 15 June 2018, we have confirmed our decisions taken last year, in light of a general increase in security concerns, to immediately stop publishing any information about the places MPs travel to or from when they claim for mileage; and the names of landlords from whom MPs rent properties. In line with this, for security reasons we have also decided to stop publishing the first part of the postcode for properties rented by MPs.

In addition, the revised Publication Scheme contains a minor amendment to clarify that purchases made by MPs through suppliers who are paid directly by IPSA are also published with the details provided to us by the relevant supplier. We are grateful to all who responded to the consultation. The Publication Scheme is available on the IPSA website <u>here</u>.

Compliance Officer

IPSA's Board has confirmed the appointment of Tracy Hawkings as the new Compliance Officer. You can read more about the role of the Compliance Officer, and about Tracy, <u>here</u>.

HMRC and IPSA letter

HMRC and IPSA sent a joint letter to all MPs this week about taxation related to security expenditure.

This letter can be viewed <u>here</u>.

Payment Card Online Account Guide

IPSA provides MPs with a Government procurement card, known as a payment card. MPs can use the payment card to pay for any business cost or expense allowable under the scheme, <u>here</u>.

The online account quick guide provides advice on how to use some of the key features of the online account and to help you manage your expenditure. Similar to a personal online credit card account, this online account will enable you to:

- View your statements
- View your balances in real time
- Access transaction data for up to the last 36 months
- Run reports on your spending

Staff budget Reports

Staff Budget Reports for June continue to be unavailable due to a technical error. This is being investigated as a matter of urgency and will be resolved as soon as possible. We apologise for the delay of the reports and thank you for your patience whilst the issue is being fixed.

Summer recess

Parliament's summer recess starts on 24 July. IPSA staff will continue to be available during the recess if MPs or staff need to get in touch.

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