

13 October 2016

This bulletin contains information on:

- New IPSA website
- IPSA's Scheme consultation survey
- Payroll officer direct lines
- Issuing of new IPSA payment cards

New IPSA website

As part of wider improvements to IPSA's systems and processes, we promised to create a new public website by the end of this year. We will promote the new website next month when we publish MPs' annual expenditure for 2015-16. The *beta* (draft) version of the website is now available to review at www.theipsa.org.uk. We hope to get feedback so we can improve it before its formal launch.

Our website helps us meet IPSA's statutory objective of providing assurance to the public that MPs' expenditure is appropriate and independently regulated. As such, we have upgraded and simplified the layout of the website to make it easier to see that your expenditure is wholly and exclusively for parliamentary purposes, including a dedicated page on each MP's spending. There is also space for any commentary from MPs which we are currently piloting. We have included a graph showing each MP's annual expenditure in order to demonstrate to the public that the majority of your money is spent on your staff to support your parliamentary and constituency work and virtually none on 'expenses'.

We are already aware of some changes that we need to make over the coming weeks (including changing the heading 'Annual Report' to refer to any comments you want to make about your annual expenditure). We will also add to the 'Election History' as it currently only goes back to 2010 when IPSA was created. We look forward to receiving any other comments over the coming weeks.

IPSA's Scheme consultation survey

On Wednesday 11 May 2016 IPSA <u>launched the public consultation on the MPs' Scheme of Business</u> <u>Costs and Expenses</u> (the Scheme). The aim is to make the Scheme simpler and clearer, whilst retaining a robust approach to regulating MPs' business costs and expenses and a commitment to

supporting MPs in their parliamentary duties. A copy of the full consultation document is available on IPSA's website: www.parliamentarystandards.org.uk. The consultation closes on 24 October. You can send submissions to schemeconsultation@theipsa.org.uk or post them via mail.

We have also created a survey to gather views from MPs, their staff, and from the public on the main areas of the Scheme covered by the consultation. All survey responses are anonymous. You can complete the survey here until 24 October.

Payroll officer direct lines

A reminder that you are now able to contact your dedicated payroll officer directly. Your payroll officer will support you with any specific payroll or staffing budget matters you may wish to discuss which are not related to your other business costs and expenses. Your account managers will continue to support you in any other questions, issues, training, or guidance you may need relating to the MPs' Scheme of Business Costs and Expenses, expense claims, and your budgets (excluding staffing).

Dedicated Payroll Officers (Surnames of MP listed in brackets next to the payroll officer).

- Carmen (A to Cro) 020 7811 6419
- Bhavna (Cru to Hanc) 020 7811 6406
- Rachael (Hand to Mann J) 020 7811 6430
- Claire (Mann S to Ryan) 020 7811 6445
- Bronwen (Sal to Zei) 020 7811 6446

Issuing of new IPSA payment cards

We are in the process of issuing **every MP** with a new IPSA payment card. This is due to Barclaycard's migration from Visa to MasterCard for all Government Procurement cards. There will be no difference in how you use your card, or in how you reconcile your card, and your PIN will remain the same. Please note however, if you have logged your IPSA payment card for purchases on a website, you will have to update the details to your new card number.

We are organising a **drop-in session in Room Q, Portcullis House on 27 October between 2pm and 4pm**, where you have the opportunity to collect your new card in person. If you would prefer or are unable to attend we will be able to send your new card by post to your House of Commons address. We will send out detailed instructions on the time and location of drop-in sessions nearer to the time.

IPSA Contact Details

Phone: IPSA Information Line: 020 7811 6400 (Open daily from 10am-5pm)

Email: info@theipsa.org.uk

Post: IPSA, 4th floor, 30 Millbank, London, SW1P 4DU

Website: www.parliamentarystandards.org.uk