

18 December 2020

Dear Member of Parliament,

Covid-19 Staffing Budget Supplement for 2021-22

In September we asked you for information on the impact that the pandemic is having on your workload, and we are grateful to those of you who responded. We have listened carefully to you and your staff about the pressure you are currently under, especially the rise in casework and correspondence resulting from the pandemic and the impact that this is having on staff wellbeing.

In response we can announce, subject to formal approval by SCIPSA of IPSA's funding in the New Year, that we will be extending the COVID related staffing budget supplement into the 2021-22 financial year, with an additional one-off 50% increase. This means that an additional £24,970 will be available for MP staffing budgets outside of the London area and £27,680 for London area MPs. By giving you this information now, we aim to help you plan for next year.

We appreciate that each MP's office is different and the discretion on how to deploy this staffing resource is a matter for you to decide locally. But the additional budget could fund, as examples:

- Recruitment of an additional full-time member of staff (or retention of a current fixed term appointment) until the end of 2021;
- Two full time appointments from April to July; or
- One part-time appointment working 3.5 days per week for the full financial year
- Overtime payments or contract extensions for your existing staff

You may find it useful to discuss this with the House's Members' HR Service who would be happy to hear from you. They can be contacted at membershr@parliament.uk.

Details of your other budgets will be announced once the formal budget-setting processes have been concluded in the New Year. We understand how hard it is to recruit and retain short term appointments when there is a lack of certainty, and so we appreciate the Speaker and SCIPSA's support in being able to make this announcement now ahead of the conclusion of the formal approval of IPSA's funding.

With our best wishes for a safe and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Lloyd
Interim Chair