

IPSA

Bulletin: News and Updates from IPSA



2 September 2021

We appreciate that the last two weeks have been challenging for many of you as you support constituents affected by the situation in Afghanistan. We are committed to supporting you as best we can. Below you will find information about how we can help as well as links to other services that may be able to assist you. If you are experiencing difficulties regarding your staffing and business costs, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#).

We have made a decision following our consultation on an adjustment to the mechanism that is used to determine future adjustments to MPs' salaries. [You can read about our decision below](#).

The next set of publication data is [available for you to review](#). Please contact us by **9 September** if you think we have missed anything. The data will be published on **16 September**.

This week's bulletin contains information on:

- [MPs' Pay Consultation](#)
- [Afghanistan: Support for MPs and Staff](#)
- [Security: New Provider](#)
- [Publication Reminder - 16 September](#)

Information you should still be aware of includes:

- [IPSA Online Upgrade - Space Bar](#)
- [Training and Development](#)
- [Contact us](#)

With best wishes

The IPSA Team

MPs' Pay Consultation

We have now ended our consultation on an adjustment to the mechanism that is used to determine future annual adjustments to MPs salaries.



[You can find a link to our consultation document here.](#)

In the light the impact of the technical effects arising from the pandemic on the data, we have decided that IPSA should have discretion to adjust the percentage by which MPs' salaries are updated from the AWE 'KAC9' data point. This will apply to the financial years beginning in April 2022, 2023 and 2024.

We will use this discretion where this is warranted with reference to the available economic information and in line with our pay principles, which seek to ensure fairness for both MPs and taxpayers.

We expect that from 2024 we will be able to revert to the practice of using KAC9 alone to determine pay adjustments, but will have an opportunity to consider this further, if needed, in our next statutory review.

Afghanistan: Support for MPs and Staff

We know that the situation in Afghanistan has had a significant impact on some of your constituency workloads, and that this is not simply additional work but it is also emotional and stressful. We have heard from a number of MPs that their staff have been working very long hours and over weekends and this past bank holiday in England and Wales. We are keen to do what we can to support you and your staff during this time and hope the following information is helpful.

Sources of support

We would like to remind MPs of the funding that was put in place in 2020 to support the wellbeing of MP staff (details [here](#)).

In addition, the House of Commons provides access to an Employee Assistance Programme which is available to you and your staff which provides support with mental health and wellbeing issues – contact details are available on the parliamentary intranet.

The MP staff Wellness Working Group has done a lot of work to support MP staff, and their wellbeing hub can be found here: [Wellbeing hub for MPs' staff](#).

Contingency funding

Our initial understanding is that the impact of the situation in Afghanistan on MP offices is varied but for those offices with the greatest impact, we will consider contingency funding applications. We are conscious that the situation in Afghanistan is on-going and that it might not yet be completely clear what additional budgetary support may be required, so we will be contacting those MPs who have been in touch with us to work out how best we can help. Once we have identified the specifics of the support required, we will write to you again.

[Further information can be found here.](#)

New Security Provider

ADT Fire and Security will be the new external supplier for providing security measures for constituency offices, constituency homes and London accommodation.

From **1 November**, ADT will take over responsibility from Chubb for both maintaining existing and installing new security measures.



The funding to which MPs are entitled to and the security measures available to them will not change.

The Members' Security Support Service (MSSS) and IPSA are working to ensure that there is minimum disruption for MPs whether they have measures in place, work in progress or work planned. Our aim is to ensure that surveys and installations continue, alarms remain fully functional, police monitoring is maintained and lone worker devices operate as normal.

Colleagues from MSSS will be in touch with MPs who are affected by this change to discuss how work will be managed during this transition period. If you have installation work in progress or planned, someone from the team will contact you to discuss this in September.

If you would like to find out more about the security support that is available to you, [visit the intranet](#). If you would like to find out more about how the MSSS can support you, contact safe@parliament.uk.

Publication Data

On **16 September** we will publish your business costs for April and May 2021.

We have redacted your personal information in line with our [Publication Policy](#).



We recommend that you check your data before we publish and if you think we have missed anything, please [contact us](#) by **9 September** at the latest to let us know.

You can access your data directly by clicking [here](#). This link can also be found on our [information website](#). If you experience any problems accessing your data, please [contact us](#).

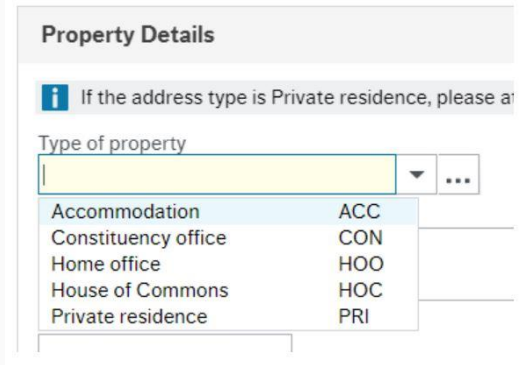
Your data may include claims from before April. On previous publication dates we may not have published claims for various reasons, but with the intention to publish at a later date. We make amendments to the data already on the website when necessary.

If you have any queries, please [contact the MP Services team](#).

Information you should still be aware of...

[IPSA Online Upgrade - Use of Space Bar](#)

As you know, we have recently upgraded IPSA Online. Whilst the upgraded system should feel familiar to you, there is a minor difference in the process of selecting items from a drop down menu.



The screenshot shows a form titled "Property Details". At the top, there is an information icon and a note: "If the address type is Private residence, please a". Below this is a label "Type of property" followed by a dropdown menu. The dropdown menu is open, showing a list of options with their corresponding codes:

Type of property	Code
Accommodation	ACC
Constituency office	CON
Home office	HOO
House of Commons	HOC
Private residence	PRI

Whereas previously you would select the 'drop down' icon, you should now click into the box and press the space bar. Your options will then be displayed on the drop down menu.

We appreciate that minor alterations can be an inconvenience. If you are having any issues with IPSA Online, we are keen to help. You can [book an appointment](#) with your account manager or call us on **020 7811 6400**.

[Training and Development](#)

We currently have a programme of training sessions on a range of subjects. These explain our rules, demonstrate processes and answer other questions you may have. Our current programme of sessions includes:

- IPSA Online training
- IPSA Online drop-in training sessions
- Managing your Business Costs: Claims and Budgeting
- Managing your properties: The IPSA Property Lifecycle
- Reconciling your Payment Card
- Returned Claims Webinar
- Staffing Budget webinar

[Click here for more details and to register](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Website: check the [MP and MPs' staff website](#) for general queries.

Email: email info@theipsa.org.uk or payroll@theipsa.org.uk with queries for your dedicated Account Manager or Payroll Officer. Your email will be directed to your team and someone will get back to you. Our aim is to get back to you within 5 working days but we'll reply sooner if we can.

Book a call: to speak to your dedicated Account Manager or Payroll Officer using the [call booking system](#). They will contact you at the allocated time. You can find information about your IPSA team on our [Contact us](#) page.

Call the support team: You can call us directly on **020 7811 6400**. Your call will be answered by a member of the team, not necessarily your Account Manager or Payroll Officer, who will try to resolve your issue or will forward to a member of the team.