

Member of Parliament
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25 June 2020

Dear Member of Parliament,

Addendum to the Scheme of MPs' Business Costs and Expenses 2020-21

Today we laid before the House of Commons an Addendum to the Scheme of MPs' Business Costs and Expenses for 2020-21: <https://www.theipsa.org.uk/publications/scheme-of-mps-business-costs-expenses/>. The Addendum details the changes we have made to the Scheme following our recent consultation. These changes are designed to support MPs' offices and staff to respond effectively to the needs of their constituents during the coronavirus pandemic. The changes come into effect from today, 25 June 2020. Key changes are summarised below.

Changes to the Staffing Budget for 2020-21

We agreed to make available extra resource which MPs' offices may request in order to meet the demand for extra staff at this time. The maximum amount of additional funding is set at £18,270 for London Area MPs and £16,480 for non-London Area MPs, and is available to the end of the 2020-21 financial year. MPs have the discretion to decide how best to meet the increased workload due to the pandemic. They could hire a fixed-term member of staff, or increase the contractual hours or overtime of existing staff members. An MP can make multiple requests during the financial year, to respond to evolving needs, but the total amount requested cannot exceed the maximum.

Homeworking allowance for MPs' staff

We have also introduced an allowance of £26 per month for MPs' staff members who are working from home, to cover the additional costs they are incurring as a result of homeworking (including utilities and telephone costs, for example). The amount of £26 is based on HMRC guidance, and payment of the allowance will greatly reduce the

administration for all parties in making claims and processing the costs incurred through working at home.

Further information on the Addendum and changes to the Scheme rules can be found at <https://www.theipsa.org.uk/news/coronavirus-guidance/> and we will be publishing a formal report on the consultation in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Lloyd', written in a cursive style.

Richard Lloyd
Interim Chair