



**11 October 2018**

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### **IPSA Online**

This summer, training for the new IPSA Online finance and expenses system has continued around the UK. Staff in over half of all MPs' offices have now had training in how to use the system. Their feedback has been very positive with people looking forward to the full system going live. The IPSA Online homepage is now fully operational and in August we gave access to 400 new parliamentary account holders. A further 300 staff who work for MPs but who do not have a parliamentary network account have also been given full access.

It is vital that the implementation of a new online expenses, payroll, HR and finance system for MPs is as smooth and trouble-free as possible. We have heard this feedback from staff who have attended our training events and taken it on board. As such, we will continue with our phased approach, with further cycles of testing to make sure that all parts of the system work well when it goes live. We will only announce a launch date, now likely to be early in 2019, when we have confidence that it will be ready for all MPs and staff. We wanted this to be sooner, but we are taking a low-risk approach to enable us to test the system fully and build in further time for training as many MPs' offices as possible. We will announce more details, including additional training support, later this year.

### **Annual Publication**

The next regular publication of MPs' business costs and expenditure will be on 15 November 2018. This also includes data that is only published annually, including details of the costs of staffing for each MP, and the aggregate spending on security and disability across all MPs. Over the next few days we will email all MPs with details of what will be published. This follows on from another email sent in September. If there are any questions about this or corrections that are needed, please let us know.

### **MP Commentary**

This year MPs will once again have an opportunity to include some comments of their own about their expenditure, on the IPSA website. This will be published alongside aggregated data. The purpose of this commentary is to add context to MPs' spending. The deadline for submissions is 1 November. This is entirely voluntary and any MP who was in post during 2017/18 that wants to submit some words can send them to us via email.

### **Spotlight on...UK Parliament Week**

The biggest engagement event of Parliament's year, UK Parliament Week, returns on 12-18 November.

UK Parliament Week is an annual UK-wide festival that engages people with Parliament and empowers them to get involved. It's a great opportunity for people to explore what the UK Parliament means to them and their community. In 2018 Parliament celebrates Vote 100 and invites partners to explore the struggle for equal suffrage, empowering people from right across the UK to get involved and have their voices heard.

Throughout the week Parliament will be hosting a series of free talks for anyone who wants to find out more about how the UK Parliament works, and how to get involved. For more information and to book your place visit [www.ukparliamentweek.org/jubilee-room-talks](http://www.ukparliamentweek.org/jubilee-room-talks)