

6 January 2021

Dear Member of Parliament

I thought the turn of the year might be a good opportunity to introduce myself to those of you I have not had the pleasure of speaking with so far, either individually or in groups.

For those who don't know my background, my first career was with the NHS Ambulance Services, with 15 years ranging from being a frontline paramedic through to an NHS Trust Director. I'm back doing some volunteer clinical shifts in London in my spare time as part of the Covid-19 response. About 12 years ago I moved into regulation, starting in healthcare before moving into other sectors. I have held executive and non-executive roles regulating nurses, dentists, barristers, management accountants, the police and private security as well as spending time as a civil servant in the Department for Education and Cabinet Office. Every one of these roles has been about service improvement and I now focus on relatively short-term appointments, dedicated to service redesign.

I took up the Chief Executive role at IPSA in late October 2020 and have spent my first two months getting to grips with our legislation, the Scheme, our systems and processes and, most importantly, listening to feedback from our key customers - you and your staff.

Enabling MPs to focus on what really matters by providing an exemplary, seamless regulatory service

I recognise that IPSA has a significant journey to undertake to ensure effective regulation delivered primarily by supporting you and your staff to achieve compliance at first instance. That is the focus of our new three-year Corporate Plan, encapsulated in our vision, in bold above.

We need to improve IPSA Online, to make it simple, intuitive and user friendly and ensure that it can produce meaningful and useful reports for you. We need to review the Scheme itself, 10 years after its creation, to ensure it remains fit for purpose and that the associated publication, whilst retaining the hallmarks of transparency, does not unfairly stigmatise overspends or open you to misplaced criticism (but we are too far through this year's process to make any significant changes, I'm afraid).

We need to support you and work with you to deliver better value for money, be that through central service provision in some areas or helping you with local procurement in others. We will help you to get it right first time rather than 'catching you out' after the event – although we will always have a role in approval and verification.

Some of these changes will take time but others will be much quicker. I hope that our early notification about the continued Covid-19 related staffing budgets, which you had asked for, is at least one indicator that we are listening and committed to doing things differently in the future. We will provide updates through our Bulletin which I would encourage you to keep a look out for and take a couple of minutes to read.

With best wishes for a safe, successful and happy New Year.

Ian

Ian Todd

Chief Executive, IPSA