

1. £106,000 on printing related costs – IPSA’s own records show a more detailed breakdown of costs under this claim and demonstrate that other costs (such as IT) cover the range of parliamentary activity besides printing. It is worth noting that these figures cover over 60,000 separate cases across 14 years and numerous incumbency projects.

The Association records clearly demonstrate it has paid for its own stationery and ink and as such contributed towards the cost of running the Parliamentary office (discussed later).

2. Office use for non-parliamentary purposes – An agreement has been in place with IPSA since 2022 covering rent for ad-hoc use since 2021. From December 2019 to end of 2020 the office was not used for activity due to the Covid pandemic. Prior to 2019 formal agreements have been in place relating to the sub-let of the office, inside and outside of election periods and appropriate payments made (see attachments) depending on the level of activity occurring. See A and B.

There was a delay in reaching agreement with IPSA over exact details of formal, logged arrangements. Our first request to do so was sent on 18/8/22, but a final agreement was only agreed by IPSA on 13/4/23.

It is worth noting that a combination in 2023 of both local elections across the whole constituency, and the confirmation of substantial boundary changes giving the Association an extra 27,000 voters, use of the office by the association was higher than in 2022.

3. Statements made to Ms Skriczka that using the office 'saved money' and 'kept money in our account' – These were private discussions relating to association matters and recorded without permission, and outside of IPSA’s remit. The occasional use by the association of the parliamentary office 'saved money' and 'kept money in [the association’s] account' in comparison with a situation where the association was using its own funds to rent office space its level of activity did not need – the crux of the argument at the time, which was that a separate association office was an unaffordable luxury.

a. The same argument applies to the coverage of comments about 'replicating what is already being funded by the association via IPSA'.

4. One-off payment made to IPSA of £150 following July 2022 selection AGM – Prior to the meeting a cheque had been requested from the Association covering ad-hoc use, including the meeting in question. The cheque from the Association was passed to a member of Paul’s staff at the meeting. Rather than waiting for the cheque to clear, payment was made to IPSA immediately. This was one consequence of IPSA no longer accepting cheques, but the Association relying still on cheques. In hindsight it would have been appropriate to check with IPSA to clearly label the invoice to prevent confusion.

5. Use of Faraday Way on imprint – An agreement is in place for occasional use of the office. This was interpreted to include use of the constituency office as a 'post box' for the return of campaign material. Returned freepost surveys or canvas cards, the most common campaign material, are also used in Parliamentary work as they contain casework so are 'triaged' in the office.

7. Use of the boardroom for July 2022 selection meeting EGM – This is covered under the one-off payment of £150 made to IPSA on 29 June.

8. Use 'out of hours' – This was a factually incorrect statement but did not materially affect the recorded payments made which were accurate.

9. The Riso – The Riso has from time to time been used for non-parliamentary printing. The association covered the cost of per-page ink and paper et cetera. A proportion of the invoice paid by third-parties also covered some Parliamentary printing, which was not claimed for from IPSA (including on printer/scanner)- effectively subsidising some of the office's work on behalf of the taxpayer (see attachment C for summary of association paying for paper, postage and so on from 2017 onwards).

10. A submission containing incomplete information for December 2022 and Jan 2023 based on WhatsApp texts of 30 November, 2 December and 31 January to substantiate use of office by the Association (printing during office-hours from on the riso) full-time.

We accept the office was used for the two day sessions on the dates indicated, but was not logged due to staff absence. We have already made payment to IPSA to reflect this.

11. Association contribution to office costs of £3,745.96.

The journalist has misunderstood the association accounts. Reference to office costs refer to the administrative costs of the association rather than a 'repeat' of parliamentary office costs. Association accounts attached to illustrate. See attachments D and E

A

To: Independent Parliamentary Standards Agency

Concerning Room 11, Blackpool Technology Management Centre, Faraday Way, Blackpool, FY2 0JW

Following on from our previous conversation about the local Party (Blackpool North & Cleveleys Conservative Association) use of the office for evening meetings and occasional administration tasks. We propose the following based on this calculation.

Rent is £2055 per quarter which equates to £8,220 per year. Break this down by 365 days equals £22.52 per day. During the daytime, the office continues to operate with Paul's members of staff. There are 5 desks in the office and if one is occupied by a local Party worker then we can divide the cost by 5, which means one desk is worth £4.50. I believe an element of a cost of the utilities should be included, but this is more difficult to determine, so we would propose adding 20% of the day desk rate. This would mean a flat rate of £5.50 per day usage.

Evening use, although we use the communal meeting room provided by the landlord for all tenants in the block to use, we propose the following.

£22.52 per day divided by 8 hours (typical daily office operating hours) would make an hourly use rate of £2.81, add 20% utilities equals £3.41 per hour, we can round that up for simplicity to £3.50 per hour.

So, we propose a £5.50 day rate for daytime usage and £3.50 per hour for out of office use.

This agreement to 1st March 2023 and will run until further notice with a 2 week notice period from either party to terminate the agreement.

I will keep a logbook of use and will invoice the local Party every 3 months on prior use. They will pay me (they only operate with cheques) and I will transfer to IPSA the amount they pay.

Paul Maynard MP
Blackpool North & Cleveleys

County Councillor Alan Vincent
Chair – BNCCA

7th December 2022

B

Date	To	From	Amount	To cover
16/12/2014	IPSA	BNCCA	£960	Use of Queen Street Office for for full time campaign manager in 2014/15
11/07/2024	IPSA	BNCCA	£253	Use of office for 2017 GE
08/07/2019	IPSA	BNCCA	£1,800	Use of office & equipment for 2018/19 as per letter to Marcial Boo 29th March 2018
13/01/2020	IPSA	BNCCA	£474	Use of office and equipment 2019GE
04/06/2021	IPSA	Simon Renwick	£140	Use of office during the year of 2021
29/06/2022	IPSA	Simon Renwick	£150	Use of office during the year 2022
07/07/2023	IPSA	Paul Maynard	£270.50	Use of office from 1st Jan 2023 until 22nd June 2023 and additional use prior to 31st December 2022
26/10/2023	IPSA	Simon Renwick	£59.50	Use of office July, Aug, Sep 2023
17/01/2024	IPSA	Simon Renwick	£85	Use of office Oct, Nov, Dec 2023
19/01/2024	IPSA	Simon Renwick	£11	To reflect two missed days on the log

C

Association printing, postage, paper, envelope, stationery payments to suppliers

Year	Ammount	Comment. If any
2017	£ 2,305.41	
2018	£ 2,511.60	
2019	£ 5,539.07	
2020	£ 2,446.42	Limited activity due to covid
2021	£ 1,440.24	Limited activity due to covid
2022	£ 2,110.83	
2023	£ 11,392.88	
2024	£ 1,131.82	
Total	£ 28,878.27	

D

RENWICK, Simon

From: david walmsley <djwalmsley@googlemail.com>
Sent: 12 January 2024 17:20
To: RENWICK, Simon
Subject: BNCCA 2021

Hi Simon

£517-86 - CFC Corporate Finance re phone rental
£332-02 - Midshires re telephone
£140-00 - IPSA re use of office for local elections
£300-00 - Bluetree annual website fee
£780-03 - Mailchimp

£2069-91 - Total as per balance sheet.

Dave

E

RENWICK, Simon

From: david walmsley <djwalmsley@googlemail.com>
Sent: 12 January 2024 17:03
To: RENWICK, Simon
Subject: BNCCA 2022

Hi Simon

£551-53 - Sharp Business Systems re photocopier.

£150-00 - IPSA re Office Rental. Paul paid it around June time and we then reimbursed him.

£360-00 - Bluetree Website Services

£614-52 - Mailchimp

£1676-05 - Total as per balance sheet

Dave