

Compliance Officer for
IPSA

Investigation Closure Report

Mr Liam Byrne MP
Member of Parliament for Hodge Hill, Birmingham
COM 1381 and COM 1382

24th May 2023

Tracy Hawkings
Compliance Officer for IPSA

Investigation Closure Report

This Closure Report is issued pursuant to paragraph 26 of the Procedures for Investigations by the Compliance Officer for IPSA ('the Procedure').

On July 2020, following the receipt of complaints, the Compliance Officer opened an investigation into Liam Byrne MP. The scope of the investigation was to consider¹:

Claims submitted under the following areas of the Scheme:

- Staffing and Office Costs in 2019/20

Following the investigation, the Compliance Officer found that Mr Byrne did allow a staff member to work on his Mayoral Campaign during times the staff member was being paid by IPSA to conduct parliamentary work. A repayment direction has not been made and there is no requirement for the MP to reimburse IPSA in part for the staff member's salary.

The Compliance Officer has invited IPSA to consider the following recommendations:

Recommendation One

It is recommended that IPSA consider amending the terms and conditions of all contracts for existing and new staff members that makes it very clear they are not permitted to take part in any non-parliamentary activities during their contracted hours of work. Any such activities should take place in their own time and in one of three ways:

1. having booked leave
2. taken time off in lieu of hours worked.
3. In a voluntary capacity outside of working hours

Recommendation Two

All Members of Parliament should be required to provide a written undertaking they will not use their IPSA funded staff for any non-parliamentary activities during their contracted hours of work. Any such activities should take place in one of three ways:

1. The staff member concerned books annual leave.

¹[Notice of Investigation](#)

2. The staff member concerned takes time off in lieu of previous hours worked.
3. The staff member concerned performs the activity as a volunteer outside of contracted hours.

It should be made clear, there is an expectation that records will be kept for each staff member which records annual leave, time off in lieu and voluntary activities.

As a result of the investigation, the Compliance Officer issued a Final Statement of Findings to Mr Byrne and IPSA. This is included at **Annex 1** of this Closure Report.

No further action is required by Mr Byrne or IPSA and the investigation is now closed.

Tracy Hawkings

Compliance Officer for IPSA

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ANNEX 1 – Statement of Provisional Findings