

**Joint Statement by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority and the  
Compliance Officer for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority**

Purpose of the Joint Statement

1. This Joint Statement, prepared in accordance with section 10A of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 (“the Act”), sets out how the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (“IPSA”) and the Compliance Officer for IPSA (“the Compliance Officer”) will work with the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis (“the Commissioner”) and the Director of Public Prosecutions (“the DPP”) if IPSA or the Compliance Officer are given a reason to suspect that a criminal offence may have been committed by a Member of Parliament (MP) or by a member of an MP’s staff. In preparing this statement IPSA and the Compliance Officer have as required by the Act consulted with the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis and the DPP.

Relevant bodies

2. IPSA is an independent statutory body created by the Act to administer and regulate an expenses scheme for MPs. The MPs’ Expenses Scheme (the Scheme) came into effect on 7 May 2010.
3. The Compliance Officer is a statutory office holder created by the Act whose remit is to carry out investigations into expense payments received by MPs if he has a reason to believe the claim should not have been allowed, and to carry out reviews of payment determinations made by IPSA at an MP’s request.
4. The Commissioner is in charge of the Metropolitan Police which is responsible for policing Westminster, including the House of Commons.
5. The DPP heads the Crown Prosecution Service, the principal prosecuting authority in England and Wales responsible for prosecuting most criminal cases investigated by the police.

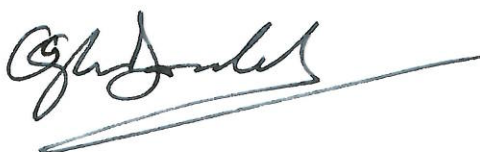
### Working together

6. Where, in the exercise of their duties, either IPSA or the Compliance Officer is given a reason to suspect that a criminal offence may have been committed by an MP or a member of an MP's staff, they shall seek advice from the Commissioner and notify the Metropolitan Police of their suspicions, and hand over any relevant documentation upon request.
7. Where a matter under investigation by the Compliance Officer has been referred to the Commissioner, the Compliance Officer may suspend the investigation into this matter.
8. If the Commissioner decides to launch a criminal investigation into an MP's actions, he may notify IPSA and the Compliance Officer, but is not bound to.
9. If, after reviewing evidence received by the Commissioner, the DPP decides to prosecute an MP in accordance with the Full Code Test set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors, he may notify IPSA and the Compliance Officer, but is not bound to.
10. IPSA and the Compliance Officer will comply with any reasonable request to disclose information to the Commissioner.
11. IPSA, the Compliance Officer, the Commissioner and the DPP will ensure that the Joint Statement is brought to the attention of all members of staff who need to be familiar with it.
12. IPSA and the Compliance Officer will have procedures in place to ensure the appropriate action is taken if reason is given to suspect that a criminal offence may have been committed by a Member of Parliament (MP) or by a member of an MP's staff.
13. No decision of IPSA or the Compliance Officer shall bind the Commissioner or the DPP.

### Joint statement regarding the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards

14. In accordance with section 10 of the Act, IPSA and the Compliance Officer have also agreed a joint statement setting out how they will work with the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards.

### Signatures



**Andrew McDonald, Chief Executive, IPSA**



**Martyn Taylor, Compliance Officer for IPSA**