

Richard Lloyd OBE
Chair

IPSA

Independent Parliamentary
Standards Authority

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Lt Gen Douglas Chalmers CB BSO OBE

29 October 2024

Dear Lt Gen Douglas Chalmers

Supporting trust in democracy in the new Parliament: Consultation on changes to how we regulate and how we publish MPs' funding

IPSA has launched a consultation on proposed changes to The Scheme of MPs' Staffing and Business Costs, IPSA's Publication Policy and regulatory guidance.

We are keen to hear the views of MPs, their staff and our wider stakeholders on these changes and how best they should be implemented.

Our proposals

This consultation explains our move to principles-based regulation, assuring the public that our funding is spent wisely whilst freeing up MPs and their staff to focus on what really matters – fulfilling their parliamentary duties.

The way we regulate adherence to these principles will be through a risk-based approach, identifying those areas of funding that require greater scrutiny. We believe that such an approach will enable us to focus our attention on areas of higher-risk spend, which is often more nuanced and discretionary; reduce the volume of errors inherent in a system with large numbers of transactions; and free up time both for IPSA and MPs to focus on outcomes rather than processes.

As well as seeking views on this new approach to our regulation, we are seeking views on how our principles are applied to areas where there has been some public concern, including MP accommodation, the use of bought-in services and funding for communications.

We were pleased to support the recommendations made by the Speaker's Conference on the employment of MPs' staff, and this consultation outlines the concrete proposals to recognise staff members' past service and facilitate the movement of staff between MP offices.

Finally, we are also asking about the possible equality impacts of the proposed changes.

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We look forward to receiving your feedback on how we regulate and your thoughts on the specific areas which are the focus of this consultation. You can view the full consultation document on our [website](#).

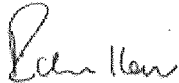
How to respond

You are encouraged to use our quick and easy [online survey](#) to send your response.

You can also email consultation@theipsa.org.uk if you prefer. Please submit your response by 13th December 2024.

A summary of the responses will be published along with our decisions. We may publish a list of respondents and refer to individuals and their responses although we will not publish email or other contact addresses. If you wish the content of your response to be confidential, please say so.

With very best wishes,



Richard Lloyd OBE
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