

This week's news:

Employment disputes

We have been asked to clarify our position on supporting MPs who are dealing with employment disputes.

We cannot meet the costs of any disputes which arose before IPSA came into operation on 7 May 2010. We do not have the statutory powers to do so. If you are dealing with a dispute which arose during the last Parliament you should contact the Department of Resources.

For disputes arising between 7 May 2010 and 31 March 2011, you may claim legal *advice* under General Administration Expenditure. Following a number of representations, we have reviewed the situation and can now confirm that you can also claim legal *representation* costs. These are claimable under "professional services". Where the costs of legal advice and representation would exhaust your GAE budget, you may apply to the contingency fund in the usual way. As we are approaching the end of the financial year, you should notify us by the end of March of any disputes for which you anticipate submitting a claim. Arrangements for the new financial year will be confirmed shortly.

IPSA cannot reimburse claims for compromise agreements, settlement costs or damages. We advise MPs to take out insurance against employment disputes and other legal costs.

As you may know, the recent public consultation asked whether IPSA should allow MPs to claim insurance for employment disputes and other legal costs. We will publish the results of the Annual Review in mid-March.

Contacting IPSA

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