

This week's news:

Many of you have asked about the arrangements for repaying the interest free advances of up to £4,000, which we made available to ease cash flow problems, and the deposit loans we have provided.

Repayment of advances

All advances from the current financial year should be repaid by the 1 June 2011.

You can repay us by sending a cheque or you can ask us to recover the balance by offsetting it against your expense claims.

Deposit Loans

For those who have applied for a deposit loan for rental or constituency offices, the loan remains outstanding for the life of the lease. If you want to repay the loan, for example because you are giving up the accommodation, you should contact us on 020 7811 6400. We will agree the arrangements for recovering outstanding amounts and transferring to any new lease agreement.

Details of advances and deposit loans will be published in the July 2011 publication cycle.

Taxation of loans

HMRC will shortly issue a revised version of *Tax and National Insurance Guide for MPs and Ministers*. This includes the following advice:

“So long as the total amount outstanding on all employment-related loans advanced to you is £5,000 or less throughout the tax year the loans are covered by the exemption for small

loans and are not subject to tax (unless the loan is written off). If the amount outstanding exceeds £5,000 at any time in the tax year then it will become liable to tax. The tax charge is on the difference between any interest paid and that which would have been paid at the published official rate of interest. This is based on an average of mortgage rates used by commercial lenders and is reviewed annually and from the start of the 2010-11 tax year is 4.00%.”

We are happy to advise on the outstanding amounts of any advances and loans, but you should seek advice from your tax adviser on the implications for your tax position.

Scheme review

Thank you to everyone who responded to the consultation on the MPs’ Expenses Scheme. We are analysing the responses and making preparations for the publication of IPSA’s report on the consultation. We will publish the outcome of the consultation later this month.

As with previous consultations, and as set out in the consultation document, we will publish the submissions we received unless they were submitted with a request that they were withheld, or published anonymously.

Our security incident procedures

It is best practice to have a widely available information security incident procedure - ours is on our website. This contains details on what constitutes an information security incident, and what steps you should take if you think there has been a security incident. [View the document](#)

Contacting IPSA

Phone: IPSA Information Line: 020 7811 6400 (Opening hours 1pm-5pm, Monday to Friday)

Email: info@parliamentarystandards.org.uk

Post: IPSA, 7th floor, Portland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5BH

Website: www.parliamentarystandards.org.uk