

## **This week's news:**

### **Publication and not paid claims**

As part of our routine and regular publication of expenses, tomorrow (Thursday 7 April) we are publishing claims from November and December 2010.

As we said in our letter to all MPs on the 25 March, we are changing how we publish details of claims initially "not paid" but approved on resubmission. From now on, where it is clear that such a claim has subsequently been resubmitted with the appropriate supporting evidence and paid, we will publish the final outcome of the expense claim only. We will, of course, publish details of other not paid claims.

### **Trade union subscriptions through payroll for MPs' staff**

Some MPs' staff have made it know that they would like to have their trade union subscription deducted directly from their monthly salary, without the need for a direct debit. We have now introduced the necessary changes to make this possible. Staff who wish to take advantage of this should obtain the necessary form from their union, which, once filled in, you should return to your union to complete and send to us.

### **Insurance**

Some MPs have asked us to clarify the position on the various insurances that MPs might require.

Employer's liability insurance and public liability insurance are provided centrally by IPSA and you should not purchase these yourself. Similarly, the House of Commons provides travel insurance centrally and you should not purchase this cover yourself. There are no other forms of insurance which MPs have to get, but, of course, you should consider purchasing insurance appropriate to your circumstances.

We are not able to meet additional costs where an MP was able to insure against a liability but decided not to do so. For example, we will not pay the costs of employment tribunals or litigation, but will pay for the purchase of insurance to defray these costs.

The following list may be a useful reference:

|                                | Claimable                        | Which budget | Scheme reference |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Employer's Liability Insurance | No – provided centrally by IPSA. | -            | Paragraph 10.8   |

|   |   |                        |                |
|---|---|------------------------|----------------|
| Public Liability Insurance                | No – provided centrally by IPSA.  | -                      | Paragraph 10.8 |
| Travel Insurance (for allowable journeys) | Yes – but only if not provided centrally by the House of Commons.                   | Travel and Subsistence | Paragraph 10.8 |
| Legal Expenses Insurance                  | Yes   | OCE                    | Paragraph 6.1  |
| Office Buildings Insurance                | Yes –once the office is registered.   | OCE                    | Paragraph 6.8  |
| Office Contents Insurance                 | Yes – once the office is registered.  | OCE                    | Paragraph 6.8  |
| Accommodation Buildings Insurance         | Yes – if claiming mortgage interest or associated costs only, not if claiming rent. | Accommodation          | Paragraph 4.9  |
| Accommodation Contents Insurance          | Yes – once the property is registered.  | Accommodation          | Paragraph 4.9  |

## Contacting IPSA

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

**Email:** [info@parliamentarystandards.org.uk](mailto:info@parliamentarystandards.org.uk)

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

**Website:** [www.parliamentarystandards.org.uk](http://www.parliamentarystandards.org.uk)