

Television Packages

Several MPs have queried if we will pay for television broadcast packages, such as Virgin Media, or Sky TV at an MP's IPSA funded accommodation. Under the second edition of the Scheme, which was in place until 31 March 2011, MPs could claim for connection and usage charges for television packages, although the guidance to the Scheme set out that we would pay for connection to a "free to air" package only.

In the recently published third edition of the Scheme, we made clear that we will pay for connection to a basic, free to air package only and will not pay for usage charges. This means that any costs for television packages are not reimbursable.

To support MPs through this transition, where MPs have been routinely claiming for these costs in the previous financial year, we will accept statements dated before 30 April. Any statements after this will not be reimbursable.

Mileage rate – 45p per mile

To reflect the recent changes made by HMRC, we have increased the rate we pay for mileage to 45p per mile. The increased rate applies to journeys taken on or after 1 May, up to 10,000 miles in a financial year. We will pay any mileage above 10,000 miles at 25p per mile, as before. Please make sure that the transaction date you enter for mileage is the date you travelled (not the date you completed the claim form). The transaction date will determine the rate we pay you.

Remittance advice slips

We have made a small change to the remittance advice slips. Under the heading *Your Reference*, you will see that there are an additional three numbers after your claim number. This change does not affect you, but is there to assist us in processing them.

Reward and recognition

We would like to make clear that any payments made to MPs' staff under the reward and recognition scheme will be published. We will not be identifying individual members of staff, but will break down the number of payments made to different members of staff and their monetary value.

We would also like to remind MPs that any submissions for a reward and recognition award must be supported by a citation on the piece of work to which the award relates.

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