

16 July 2015

This bulletin contains information on:

- MPs' pay important information
- Payroll giving
- Annual publication
- Employment Practice Liability Insurance New starter documentation
- IPSA regional and Westminster training

MPs' Pay - important information

IPSA today <u>published the outcome</u> of our recent consultation, which was part of our statutory review of MPs' pay.

IPSA must review MPs' pay in the first year of a new Parliament. The consultation, 'MPs' Pay in the 2015 Parliament: A consultation', which ran from 2-30 June 2015, addressed our December 2013 determination to increase MPs' pay to £74,000. In it, we asked if there was new and compelling evidence that might lead us to amend our determination.

After carefully considering the responses we received, we have decided that all MPs will be paid an annual salary of £74,000, backdated to 8 May 2015. However there is one significant change to our earlier pay determination. Annual changes in MPs' pay during this Parliament will be linked to changes in average earnings in the **public sector**, rather than to those in the economy as a whole.

This is part of a remuneration package, the rest of which has already been implemented. It included reductions to MPs' pensions, resettlement payments and some business costs and expenses. Today's decision follows three major consultations we have conducted since 2012.

We will review MPs' pay again in the first year of the next Parliament, as required by statute.

This salary increase will be processed in the July payroll; the arrears of pay from 8th May to 30th June will be paid in the August salary.

Payroll giving

During the course of the consultation some MPs said they did not want to accept the pay increase. By law the increase must apply to all MPs.

If an MP wishes to make a donation to charity, then that is a matter for them. IPSA can make arrangements for payroll giving through the Charities Aid Foundation's Give-As-You-Earn programme. Should an MP be interested, they need to complete the Foundation's 'Donor Instruction Form' form on our website www.parliamentarystandards.org.uk. This needs to be signed then posted to IPSA's address or scanned to payroll@parliamentarystandard.org.uk.

If an MP wishes for this to take effect at the end of August, then we must receive the completed form by 10 August at the latest. The payroll cut off for July has already past and therefore any donor instruction forms sent to us this month will be started from next month's (August) pay. These cannot be backdated retrospectively. Any donations will be taken from your pay before tax but after National Insurance.

You may wish to contact Charities Aid Foundation directly for any contributions you want to make outside of the payroll. Their phone number is 03000 123 000.

Annual publication of data

If you are a returning MP, tomorrow (Friday 17 July) we will be e-mailing you your business costs and expenses data for 2014-15, which we will be publishing in September. This includes information such as:

- A snapshot of your 2014-15 budget position at 31st May 2015
- The names of your landlords
- Information about your pay and that of any connected party you employ
- Details about the staff you employed during 2014-15 (this does not include the names or salaries of your staff)
- Information about your loans and contingency applications

Please make sure you check this data and contact us if you have any questions about it.

Employment Practice Liability Insurance

Tomorrow (Friday 17 July) we will be sending out information on renewing or opting in to the employment practice liability insurance. This will be sent to returning MPs for renewal and to any new MPs who have not yet opted into the scheme. Please look out for this information and if you have any questions, please contact us.

New starter payroll documentation

We have seen a recent increase in the number of original identification documents (e.g. passports and driving licenses to accompany House of Commons security vetting forms) being sent to us here at IPSA. These are being sent with the new starters form needed for Payroll to set up new employees.

Please remember to send all security vetting documents including passports directly to the House of Commons. We only require the new starter documents (job description, contract, new starter form) in order to set staff up on the Payroll.

IPSA regional and Westminster training

We are running open days across the country throughout July and August. This is to help MPs and MPs' staff in understanding the MPs' Scheme of Business Costs and Expenses and to provide additional support with using our systems.

If you would like to book onto a course, <u>visit our website</u> and fill in the online pdf form and return via email. You can also find this at <u>www.parliamentarystandards.org.uk</u> then visit IPSA for MPs, Staff Training section.

IPSA Contact Details

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