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For action:

Consultation on the MPs' Scheme of Business Costs and Expenses

Yesterday (Wednesday 11 May) we launched the public consultation on the MPs' Scheme of Business Costs and Expenses (the Scheme). We aim to make the Scheme simpler and clearer, whilst retaining a robust approach to regulating MPs' business costs and expenses and a commitment to supporting MPs in their parliamentary duties.

Key areas included in the consultation are: accommodation; support for MPs and their families, including connected parties; MPs' staffing expenditure and; the boundary between parliamentary and party political work.

We are also consulting on our publication policy and whether to continue to publish MPs' receipts for business costs and expenses, only in response to requests, or as a matter of routine.

A copy of the consultation document is available on our website: www.parliamentarystandards.org.uk. We emailed MPs and their staff details of the consultation yesterday and hard copies are being sent by post to all MPs' Westminster offices. Copies are also available for collection at the Vote Office and at our roadshows across the UK. The consultation will run from 11 May to 24 October 2016, after which IPSA's Board will make decisions and publish a new Scheme early in 2017 for implementation from April 2017.

We welcome everyone's views. You can submit your response by email (via schemeconsultation@theipsa.org.uk) or post. Please be aware that we must publish all responses received, but we are able to withhold your name if you explicitly request anonymity.

For information

Publication

As part of our regular and routine publication of MPs' costs and expenses, we have today released details of all claims processed in December 2015 and January 2016. You can view the latest publication data at <http://www.parliamentary-standards.org.uk/DataDownloads.aspx>

Email error

Unfortunately due to a system error, you may have received an email advising that your proxy has created a direct travel claim on the behalf of the MP. **Please ignore these emails as no additional claims have been submitted by proxies.** We apologise for any confusion caused.

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