

27 June 2016

**This bulletin contains information on:**

- Changes to the security funding arrangements

**Security**

Following the tragic death of Jo Cox MP, we have been working urgently with the police and the Parliamentary Security Department to improve and streamline access to the support you and your staff receive from us to keep you safe as you go about your parliamentary business, particularly when away from the Parliamentary Estate. Outlined below are the changes to our current approach.

Security package

In January you received a green folder containing revised arrangements to access funding for your security. The package streamlined the existing process while ensuring that professional standards of security measures are implemented. The standard measures included in the pack provide a good level of security and, if implemented, are known to reduce unauthorised access to property by more than 65 per cent. We therefore strongly advise that you do not wait to take up these measures. If you feel the need for additional measures, please use the escalation process in the pack by completing the 'Annex B – Members' Security Review Pro-forma' which you should send to your local police. But please start by implementing measures under the standard package to improve your security.

We were already revising our security procedures to improve their operation so we could reissue the guidance to you before recess. We have now brought that work forward and you will receive a new pack very shortly. In the meantime, we have improved the claiming process in the following ways:

1. **Lone worker devices.** The police have accredited a fourth supplier. These devices are like mobile panic alarms so you can summon assistance quickly if needed. Choose the supplier that most suits you as they all work in different ways. You can request devices for you and for your staff and use your payment card if the supplier accepts credit cards. We will also cover the cost of their urgent delivery if needed. Send us an email with the details so that we can open your access to the security budget so that the costs are not charged to your normal office costs. The four suppliers are:
  - Lone Worker Solutions: <http://www.loneworkersolutions.com/>
  - Skyguard: <http://skyguard.co.uk/>

- SoloProtect: <http://www.soloprotect.com/uk>
  - FiveSecure: [www.fivesecure.com](http://www.fivesecure.com)
2. **Master Locksmiths' Association (MLA).** In our January security package, the police recommended that you use a member of the MLA to install your security. This is because MLA members are fully vetted. But some MPs have found it difficult to find a local accredited supplier, causing delay. We and the police have obtained a dedicated email address for you to contact the MLA. They will then allocate an MLA member to you within 48 hours (excluding weekends). Please complete the attached pro-forma and send it to the address below.
    - The dedicated email address is: [mp@locksmiths.co.uk](mailto:mp@locksmiths.co.uk)
  3. **Monitored intruder alarms.** Some MLA locksmiths do not install alarms. So you can install alarms from other suppliers. The police recommend that MPs use those accredited by the National Security Inspectorate (NSI) or the Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board (SSAIB) to ensure you have the right standard and quality of alarm.
  4. **Obtaining quotes.** Some MPs have found it time-consuming to obtain quotes for their security work. However, we have a statutory duty to safeguard public money. Given that your security spending will not be published, in the interests of public accountability we believe it is right to ask you to obtain two quotes for security installation. This is no more than we all do when securing our own homes. However, in cases where this would cause unacceptable delays, we will accept one quote from a member of the MLA if the total cost is below £2,500. Please speak with your IPSA Account Manager to let us know if this is the case.
  5. **Personal attack alarms.** The police have accredited a number of personal attack alarms from JNE Security Ltd as a first means of defence which draw attention to an attack. These are now included in the standard package and are available for you to buy today. Please send us an email with the details so that we can open your access to the security budget. A full list of products meeting police requirements can be found at: <http://sbd.netescape.co.uk/companies/membercompany.aspx?company=321&companyname=JNE%20Security%20Limited>

#### MPs' Scheme of Business Costs and Expenses

On 11 May, we launched a review of our Scheme. This closes on 24 October. We would welcome views on all aspects of our rules, including around security. But, given our priority to respond to recent events, we have made some immediate changes to the arrangements for taxis and hotel claims which will be reviewed in light of the outcome of the consultation:

##### 1. Taxis

Some MPs have concerns about their personal security when travelling in London and their constituencies and have felt that public transport is not always appropriate. You can claim the cost of taking a taxi when you have concerns for your security, and to mention this as the reason in the 'Details' section of your claim. These claims will be published. However, if you have received specific advice from the police that you should not travel on public transport, the cost can be claimed from the 'Miscellaneous Security Assistance' category. Claims from this category are published in aggregate annually but not attached to the name of individual MPs. We will need the confirmation

from the police that taxi travel is recommended. The rules on travel are included in our consultation on the Scheme.

## 2. Hotel claims

In line with our current publication policy, we redact the name of hotels you have used, but we publish the names of any hotel chains. Some MPs have expressed concern that even publishing the hotel chain could compromise their security. We will therefore no longer publish the name of any hotel you use, including the chain name. We are consulting on our wider publication policy as part of our review of the Scheme.

These changes to your security arrangements have been put in place while we continue our consultation on the Scheme which closes on 24 October 2016 – we welcome your feedback and input to the consultation which can be found on our website

<http://parliamentarystandards.org.uk/transparency/Pages/Consultations.aspx>

### **IPSA Contact Details**

**Phone:** IPSA Information Line: 020 7811 6400 (Open daily from 10am-5pm)

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

**Post:** IPSA, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, 30 Millbank, London, SW1P 4DU

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