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Dear Member of Parliament

### **Changes to funding MPs' security**

IPSA has always taken seriously the need for MPs and their staff to be secure as you conduct your work, allowing all routine security through the Office Costs and Accommodation budgets, and funding additional security needs from a separate fund which is published in aggregate, rather than alongside the MP's name.

But recent events have led us, with the Police and the House of Commons, to take stock of our arrangements to ensure that they are appropriate to changed circumstances. This letter announces enhancements to the security measures available to you and your staff, and how to claim for them.

Attached to this letter is guidance prepared by security experts in the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI). The Police have asked that all MPs read and familiarise themselves with the ways that you can protect yourself as you go about your work. The guidance covers measures you can take in your places of work, at home, and while you and your staff are on the move.

After you have read this guidance and taken the precautions outlined where appropriate, you may still have concerns about your security. If so, you should then look at the self-assessment checklists that I also enclose. These checklists – one for your constituency office and one for your rental accommodation and/or private residence – describe the standard package of security measures that you can access which will be funded by IPSA. You should of course only claim for measures where you believe there to be a genuine need and which are proportionate to that need.

The Police consider that this standard package of security measures should be sufficient for most MPs. However, there may be some MPs who have received specific threats that relate to their parliamentary activity. If you are ever in this position, you should immediately contact your local Police Commander. He or she will have been briefed on working with MPs

on security needs and will assess the potential threat in line with nationally-agreed protocols. They will then be in a position to recommend further security measures, if these are necessary, that IPSA will fund.

All security measures for MPs that are funded in line with the arrangements outlined in this letter will be published in a way that cannot be identified to any individual MP, precisely in order to maintain MPs' security, whether they have claimed for additional security measures for themselves or not.

This enhanced security process should give you, your staff and your family greater peace of mind. You will know, from the checklists, what security measures you are entitled to for your office, your residences and while you are on the move. You will know that additional security measures will be funded if needed. And the details of any security will not be published in a way that identifies you.

For our part, IPSA is responding to changing needs, taking advice from security experts and the Police, and improving our processes in a way that continues to provide support to MPs in their work while still providing assurance to the public on the proper use of taxpayers' money, in line with our remit from Parliament.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MARCIAL BOO". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Marcial Boo**