

Renting accommodation in your constituency

Should you decide to rent a property in your constituency (or within a 20 mile radius of it), the same rules apply as when renting accommodation in London, apart from the budget. The budget for a full year is £15,850 plus a supplement of up to £5,435 a year for each dependant you care for, up to a maximum of 3 uplifts. For 2017-18, new MPs are entitled to 10 months of this budget (£13,209, plus £4,530 per registered dependant). The property must be within your constituency, or 20 miles outside it.

Associated expenditure only

If you already own a home in your constituency (or within a 20 mile radius), or in London, and you stay there routinely whilst on parliamentary business, you can claim for associated expenditure. The budget for associated expenditure is £5,000 for a full year. For 2017-18, new MPs are entitled to 10 months of this budget (£4,167). This budget can be used to claim for:

- utility bills (gas, electricity, other fuel and water);
- council tax;
- ground rent and service charges;
- buildings insurance;
- purchase, installation and maintenance of routine security measures;
- installation of a landline telephone, line rental and usage charges; and
- installation of a broadband connection and usage charges.

Please visit our website www.theipsa.org.uk

Useful contacts:

IPSA information line – 020 7811 6400

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Accommodation

A quick guide: what you need to know and
how we will support you.

This is not a comprehensive statement of the rules and has no status other than an explanatory one. Full details on the Accommodation Expenditure budget can be found in the current edition of The Scheme of MPs' Business Costs and Expenses ('the Scheme').

What is the Accommodation Expenditure budget for?

MPs usually work in two locations when they are performing their parliamentary duties in Westminster and their constituency and may therefore need accommodation in two places. The Accommodation Expenditure budget is designed to support you when conducting your parliamentary functions.

This guide sets out the guidelines for renting accommodation, claiming for associated expenditure and the London Area Living Payment (LALP). Please read it carefully to find out what you are eligible for, what you can and can't claim, and how you can pay and claim for accommodation arrangements.

London MPs

MPs who represent a constituency in the London Area are not entitled to claim for residential accommodation. However, you can opt to be paid the London Area Living Payment (LALP), which is intended to contribute towards the additional cost of living in the London Area.

Please check the Scheme of MPs' Business Costs and Expenses on our website to see if your constituency is in the London Area. Schedule 1 lists all London Area MPs, and Schedule 2 lists those who are in the outer London Area and entitled to a higher rate of LALP.

London Area Living Payment (LALP) for inner London MPs	£3,184 for the 10 months of 2017-18 (£3,820 per annum for a full year)
London Area Living Payment (LALP) for outer London MPs	£4,309 for the 10 months of 2017-18 (£5,170 per annum for a full year)

Non-London MPs

Non-London MPs can claim for hotel accommodation or rent a property either in London or in their constituency. If an MP owns their own property, they can claim associated cost.

Hotels	In London - £150 per night
	Outside London - £120 per night
London rental accommodation*	£18,967 for the 10 months of 2017-18 (£22,760 per annum for a full year)**
Constituency rental accommodation*	£13,209 for the 10 months of 2017-18 (£15,850 per annum for a full year)**
Associated expenditure only	£4,167 for the 10 months of 2017-18 (£5,000 per annum for a full year)**

* The budget is increased by £4,530 for each registered dependant for the 10 months of 2017-18, up to a maximum of 3 dependants (£5,435 per dependant per annum for a full year, up to a maximum of 3 dependants)

** New MPs will receive 10 months of each budget in 2017-18, to cover from June 2017 to 31st March 2018

Hotels

MPs who do not represent constituencies in the London Area can choose to stay in hotels when carrying out their parliamentary functions instead of renting a property or claiming costs for a property they own. We will pay up to £150 per night for a hotel stay in London and up to £120 per night for a hotel stay in your constituency.

Separate charges for room service, breakfast or similar add-ons will not be paid. We will only pay if they are included in the overnight hotel rate and within the limit specified.

Renting accommodation in London

Should you decide to rent a property in London, we will provide you with a budget for the year to spend on the rent and associated costs. The budget for a full year is £22,760 plus a supplement of up to £5,435 a year for each dependant you care for, up to a maximum of 3 uplifts. For 2017-18, new MPs are entitled to 10 months of this budget (£18,967, plus £4,530 per registered dependant).

This budget can be used to claim for:

- rent;
- utility bills (gas, electricity, other fuel and water);
- council tax;
- ground rent and service charges;
- purchase, installation and maintenance of routine security measures;
- installation of a landline telephone, line rental and usage charges; and
- installation of a broadband connection and usage charges.

If you wish to rent a property, please send us a **Property Rental Form**, which can be found on our website. You will also need to send us a copy of your rental agreement/lease which must include the following details:

- details of all parties involved in the agreement;
- the address of the property to be let;
- the dates of the rental period;
- the amount payable; and
- the name and address of the person or organisation to whom the rent is payable.

There is an option on the Property Rental Form to ask us to pay the rent directly to your landlord, to avoid you needing to complete a claim for each month. You can also request a loan to cover your deposit on the same form, but this does not come from your Accommodation Expenditure budget (please see the leaflet on 'Managing your finances').