

Minutes of the IPSA Board Meeting

10 March 2010 (continuation of the meeting of 9 March)

Present: Ian Kennedy (Chair) Andrew McDonald (Chief Executive)
Scott Baker (Member) John Sills (Policy Director)
Jackie Ballard (Member) James Gerard (Implementation Policy)
Ken Olisa (Member) Ed Owen
Isobel Sharp (Member) Martyn Taylor (Secretariat)

1. Welcome

1.1. The Chairman welcomed Board Members to the meeting to continue the discussions from the previous day's meeting.

2. Expenses scheme (papers IPSA/090310/6 and IPSA/090310/10)

2.1. The Board considered a range of papers regarding particular aspects of the scheme.

2.2. On winding-up allowances, the Board considered that continuation of staff payments be reduced from three months to two months;

2.3. On the employment of family members, the Board considered:

- that a decision needed to be made as to whether in principle it was right or wrong that MPs should be able to employ family members;
- that if it was right that they should be able to, strong safeguards would need to be put in place to provide the public with the necessary confidence that such employment was not open to abuse. The Board considered a wide range of safeguards;
- how the employment of such employees could be audited;
- that the definition of family member would be insufficiently tight to give the public sufficient confidence and proposed a wider definition using the phrase "connected parties"; and

- that the existing employees of MPs who might be considered to fall within the “connected parties” definition should be granted grandfather rights.

3. Communications (papers IPSA/090210/11A-C)

3.1. The Board considered a number of papers on communications and media engagements in the run up to publication of the new scheme, as well as logistics for the launch of the scheme. This included a speech by the Chair to an assembly of think tanks hosted by the Institute of Public Policy Research

The meeting was closed.