



House of Commons

Committee on Members' Expenses

Formal Minutes

Session 2010–12

Committee on Members' Expenses

The Committee on Members' Expenses is appointed by the House of Commons to consider such matters relating to Members' expenses as may be referred to it by the House.

Current membership

Adam Afriyie MP (*Conservative, Windsor*) (*Chair*)
Guto Bebb MP (*Conservative, Aberconwy*)
Cathy Jamieson MP (*Labour/Co-operative, Kilmarnock and Loudoun*)
Mr Edward Leigh MP (*Conservative, Gainsborough*)
Priti Patel MP (*Conservative, Witham*)
Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP (*Labour, Greenwich and Woolwich*)
Joan Walley MP (*Labour, Stoke-on-Trent North*)
Stephen Williams MP (*Liberal Democrat, Bristol West*)

Powers

The Committee has power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to appoint specialist advisers and to report from time to time (SO No 152G).

Further information

Further information about the Committee is at www.parliament.uk/members-expenses-committee.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Dorian Gerhold (Clerk), James Rhys (Second Clerk) and Louise Sargent (Committee Assistant).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Committee on Members' Expenses, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 3299.

TUESDAY 19 JULY 2011

Members present:

Adam Afriyie
Guto Bebb
Cathy Jamieson

Mr Edward Leigh
Mr Nick Raynsford

1. Declaration of interests

Members declared their interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (see Appendix).

2. Chair of the Committee

Adam Afriyie was called to the Chair.

3. Review of the operation of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009

The Committee took note of the House's instructions of 12 May and 7 July.

4. Committee's working methods

Ordered, That the public be admitted during the examination of witnesses unless the Committee orders otherwise.

Ordered, That, unless the Committee orders otherwise, uncorrected transcripts of oral evidence given to the Committee be published on the internet.

[Adjourned to Tuesday 13 September at 3 pm

TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2011

Members present:

Adam Afriyie in the Chair

Guto Bebb
Cathy Jamieson
Mr Edward Leigh

Mr Nick Raynsford
Joan Walley
Stephen Williams

1. The Operation of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009

Professor Sir Ian Kennedy, Chair, and John Sills, Director of Policy, Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA), gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned to Tuesday 11 October at 3 pm]

TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2011

Members present:

Adam Afriyie in the Chair

Guto Bebb
Mr Edward Leigh
Mr Nick Raynsford

Joan Walley
Stephen Williams

1. Declaration of interests

Joan Walley and Stephen Williams declared their interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (see Appendix).

2. The Operation of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009

Dr Ira Madan, the House's Consultant Occupational Physician, gave oral evidence.

Rt Hon Peter Riddell and Matthew Parris gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned to Tuesday 18 October at 3 pm]

TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2011

Members present:

Adam Afriyie in the Chair

Guto Bebb
Mr Edward Leigh
Priti Patel

Mr Nick Raynsford
Stephen Williams

1. Declaration of interests

Priti Patel declared her interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (see Appendix).

2. The Operation of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Committee on Standards in Public Life
Sir Malcolm Jack, former Clerk of the House
Barry K Winetrobe, parliamentary and constitutional consultant
Dr Ira Madan, the House's Occupational Physician
Mr Hugh V Thomas
Unite Parliamentary Staff Branch
Hansard Society
Rt Hon Peter Riddell
Dr Paul Seaward
Michael Rush, University of Exeter, and Philip Giddings, University of Reading
Martyn Taylor, Compliance Officer for IPSA
Archbishops' Council
Dr Fiona Alexander

Dr Fiona Alexander, General Practitioner, gave oral evidence.

Martyn Taylor, Compliance Officer for IPSA, gave oral evidence.

Sir Christopher Kelly, Chairman, Committee on Standards in Public Life, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned to Tuesday 25 October at 3.15 pm]

TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2011

Members present:

Adam Afriyie in the Chair

Guto Bebb
Mr Edward Leigh

Priti Patel
Mr Nick Raynsford

1. The Operation of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009

Hugh Thomas gave oral evidence.

Dr Ruth Fox, Director, and Matt Korris, Research Fellow, Parliament & Government Programme, Hansard Society, gave oral evidence.

Sir Ian Kennedy, Chair, Andrew McDonald, Chief Executive, and John Sills, Director of Policy, Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA), gave oral evidence.

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA)
Dave Hartnett CB, Permanent Secretary for Tax, HM Revenue & Customs
The Chartered Institute of Taxation
Bill Cockburn CBE TD, Chairman, Senior Salaries Review Board (SSRB)
Members' and Peers' Staff Association (MAPSA)

[Adjourned to Thursday 27 October at 10.15 am

THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2011

Members present:

Adam Afriyie in the Chair

Guto Bebb
Mr Edward Leigh

Priti Patel
Mr Nick Raynsford

1. The Operation of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009

Dave Hartnett, Permanent Secretary for Tax, and Mary Aiston, Personal Tax Product and Process Director, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned to Thursday 3 November at 10.15 am]

THURSDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2011

Members present:

Adam Afriyie in the Chair

Guto Bebb
Cathy Jamieson
Mr Edward Leigh
Priti Patel

Mr Nick Raynsford
Joan Walley
Stephen Williams

1. The Operation of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009

Luke March, former Compliance Officer for IPSA, gave oral evidence.

Lauren Edwards, Political Officer, and Max Freedman, Chair, Unite Parliamentary Staff Branch, gave oral evidence.

Sian Norris-Copson, Chair, and Lisa Townsend, Executive Member, Members' and Peers' Staff Association (MAPSA), gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned to Thursday 10 November at 10.15 am]

THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2011

Members present:

Adam Afriyie in the Chair

Mr Edward Leigh
Priti Patel

Mr Nick Raynsford

1. The Operation of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned to Thursday 24 November at 10.15 am

THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2011

Members present:

Adam Afriyie in the Chair

Guto Bebb
Mr Edward Leigh
Priti Patel

Mr Nick Raynsford
Stephen Williams

1. The Operation of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned to Thursday 1 December at 10.15 am

THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 2011

Members present:

Adam Afriyie in the Chair

Guto Bebb
Cathy Jamieson
Mr Edward Leigh
Priti Patel

Mr Nick Raynsford
Joan Walley
Stephen Williams

1. The Operation of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned to Tuesday 6 December at 10.15 am

TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2011

Adam Afriyie, in the Chair

Guto Bebb
Cathy Jamieson

Mr Edward Leigh
Stephen Williams

1. The Operation of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009

Draft Report (*The Operation of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

(The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the First Report of the Committee, 2010–12, HC 1484.)

APPENDIX 1

Declaration of interests

19 July 2011

AFRIYIE, Adam (Windsor)

4. Sponsorships

(a) Donations to my constituency party or association, which have been or will be reported by my party to the Electoral Commission: Mr James Hogan, £2,500

8. Land and Property

Flat in London.

9. Registrable shareholdings

(a) Adfero Ltd; news and information services company.
Connect Support Services Ltd; IT services company.
Brafton Incorporated; news and information services company.
Castleford Media Pty Ltd; news and information services company.

BEBB, Guto (Aberconwy)

2. Remunerated employment, office, profession etc

Proprietor of Egin Partnership, an economic consultancy. Address: Caban, Brynrefail, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 3NR.

Payments from BBC Wales, Broadcasting House, Llandaf, Cardiff:

BBC Wales, Y Ganolfan Ddariledu, Llandaf Caerdydd. Received payment of £20 for being a guest on a programme in June 2010. Hours: approx 30mins.

BBC Wales. Received payment of £20 for being a guest on a programme in September 2010. Hours: approx 30mins.

November 2010, received £20 for appearance on Rhaglen Gwilym Owen in October 2010. Hours: 30 mins.

November 2010, received £165 for appearance on Pawb a'Farn from Bethesda in October 2010. Hours: 2hrs.

Boomerang, 218 Heol Penarth, Caerdydd Cardiff CF11 8NN. Received £200 payment for appearances on two programmes made in September. Hours: approx 2 hrs in total.

Boomerang. Received £40 payment in August for a radio interview. Hours: 30 mins.

Green Bay Media Ltd, Talbot Studios, Talbot Street Cardiff. Received £100 in August for appearing on a radio programme. Hours: 1hr.

Cwmni Da, Cae Llenor, Lon Parc Caernarfon Gwynedd. Received £150 in August for a TV programme. Hours: approx 1hr.

Payments from ComRes, 4 Millbank London SW1P 3JA, for completing surveys:

August 2010, received £75. Hours: 30mins.

December 2010, received £75. Hours: 30 mins.

January 2011, received £75. Hours: 30 mins.

February 2011, received £75. Hours: 30 mins.

March 2011, received £75. Hours: 30 mins.

December 2010, payment of £150 from Ipsos MORI, 79–81 Borough Road, London SE1 1FY, for completing survey. Hours: 45 mins.

3. Clients

Of Egin Partnership:

Payments from Jacal Cyf, consultancy; for consultancy services. Address: Gorwel, Tudweiliog, Pwllheli, Gwynedd:

Payment of £3,600. Hours: 45 hrs. (*Registered 28 October 2010*)

Payment of £1,800. Hours: 24 hrs. (*Registered 30 November 2010*)

January 2011, payment of £900. Hours: 15 hrs.

February 2011, payment of £900. Hours: 12 hrs.

March 2011, payment of £900. Hours: 12 hrs.

April 2011, payment of £900. Hours: 15 hrs.

Payment of £2,000 from Innovas Ltd, Verdin Exchange; consultancy, for consultancy support. Address: Winsford, Cheshire. Hours: 15 hrs. (*Registered 28 October 2010*)

6. Overseas visits

Donor: Conservative Friends of Israel, 45B Westbourne Terrace, London W2 3UR

Amount of donation (or estimate of the probable value): £1,355 from CFI, plus two meals supplied by other hosts at estimated cost of £100

Visit: Israel, 20–25 February 2011

Purpose of visit: fact finding political delegation to Israel and the West Bank

JAMIESON, Cathy (Kilmarnock and Loudoun)

2. Remunerated employment, office, profession etc

Member of Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EM99 1SP (until May 2011, see category 11 below). I received one third of an MSP's salary which I donated to charity.

30 June 2010, net salary received of £1,411.89. Hours: 100 hrs.

31 July 2010, net salary received of £1,411.89. Hours: 100 hrs.

31 August 2010, net salary received of £1,411.89. Hours: 100 hrs.

30 September 2010, net salary received of £1,411.89. Hours: 100 hrs.

31 October 2010, net salary received of £1,411.89. Hours: 100 hrs.

30 November 2010, net salary received of £1,411.89. Hours: 100 hrs.

31 December 2010, net salary received of £1,411.89. Hours: 100 hrs.

31 January 2011, net salary received of £1,411.89. Hours: 100 hrs.

28 February 2011, net salary received of £1,411.89. Hours: 100 hrs.

6. Overseas visits

Donor: ACTION (Advocacy to Control TB Internationally) Project within RESULTS UK

Amount of donation (or estimate of the probable value): £2,800, including return flights, accommodation, per diem for 6 days and 5 nights)

Visit: Rwanda, 19–26 February 2011

Purpose of visit: to educate MPs on the impact of tuberculosis on development, visiting Rwanda as an example for other African countries in tackling tuberculosis and HIV coinfection, and learning about the impact of support to Rwanda through bilateral and multilateral channels. The delegation also looked into how UK aid is currently being utilized in the fight against TB and HIV in Rwanda and the future role of UK aid.

11. Miscellaneous

I have received a resettlement grant from the Scottish Parliament, May 2011.

LEIGH, Edward (Gainsborough)

2. *Remunerated employment, office, profession etc*

Barrister at Law.

Parliamentary consultant to TWG Services Limited from 1st August 2009. (£10,001-£15,000).

Payments from Pinnacle Insurance Plc.; Pinnacle House, A1 Barnet Way, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire WD6 2XX. Employment ceased 31 November 2010.

1 September 2010, received £3,500 retainer from Pinnacle Insurance Plc. Hours: nil.

I employ my wife, Mary Leigh, as Office Manager.

RAYNSFORD, Rt. Hon. Nick (Greenwich and Woolwich)

1. *Remunerated directorships*

Hon vice-chairman (from June 2009), Construction Industry Council, 26 Store Street, London, WC1E 7BT. CIC is the representative body for professionals working in the construction industry. Work involves assisting the chairman and chief executive in the oversight and strategic direction of CIC, attendance at board meetings and chairing the Strategic Forum for Construction.

Received payment of £4,166 (excluding VAT) for May 2010 Hours: 28 hours.

Received payment of £6,250 (excluding VAT) for June-July 2010. Hours: 38 hours.

Received payment of £6,250 (excluding VAT) for August-September 2010. Hours; 27 hrs.

Received payment of £4,166.66 (excluding VAT) for October-November 2010. Hours: 32

hrs. Received payment of £2,083.33 (excluding VAT) for December 2010. Hours: 11 hrs.

Received payment of £6,250 (excluding VAT) for January-March 2011. Hours: 33 hrs.

Chairman, NHBC Foundation, 4th floor, 120 Cannon Street, London, EC4N 6AS. The NHBC Foundation promotes research to support the development of sustainable housing. Work involves oversight of the Foundation's research programme and dissemination of good practice, including chairing meetings of the advisory board.

Received £6,250 for about 18 hours work in May to July 2010

Received payment of £6,250 (excluding VAT) for August-October 2010). Hours: 21 hrs.

Received payment of £12,500 (excluding VAT) for November 2010-April 2011. Hours: 36 hrs.

Hometrack (non-executive), 6th Floor, the Chambers, Chelsea Harbour, London, SW10 0XF; an organisation providing valuation and related services in the housing market. Work involves advising the company on relevant housing matters and attendance at board meetings.

Received payment of £12,500 (excluding VAT) covering the period October 2009-March 2010. Hours: 22 hrs.

Received payment of £6,250 (excluding VAT) covering the period April-June 2010. Hours: 12 hrs.

Received payment of £6,250 (excluding VAT) covering the period July-September 2010. Hours: 13 hrs.

President of the Constructionarium, Riverside House, 4 Meadows Business Park, Station Approach, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey, GU17 9AB. The project promotes practical site-based development opportunities for students undertaking Built Environment degree courses. Work involves advising the organisation on the development of its construction training activities.

Received payment of £1,000 (excluding VAT) for work carried out in May 2010. Hours: 4 hrs.

Received payment of £1,000 (excluding VAT) for work carried out in June 2010. Hours: 5 hrs.

Received payment of £2,000 (excluding VAT) for the period July-August 2010. Hours: 7 hrs. Received payment of £3,000 (excluding VAT) for the period September-November 2010. Hours: 21 hrs.

Received payment of £2,000 (excluding VAT) for the period December 2010-January 2011. Hours: 12 hrs.

Received payment of £2,000 (excluding VAT) for the period February-March 2011. Hours: 14 hrs.

Chairman, Triathlon Homes, Fleet House, 39/61 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1M 5LA; partnership responsible for the affordable housing on the 2012 Olympic site. Work involves chairing board meetings, liaison with the partners and other interested parties and overseeing the implementation of Triathlon's objectives.

Received payment of £4,167 (excluding VAT) for the period July-August 2010. Hours: 18 hrs.

Received payment of £8,333.33 (excluding VAT) for the period September-December 2010. Hours: 30 hrs.

Received payment of £6,250 (excluding VAT) for period January-March 2011. Estimated hours: 28 hrs.

2. Remunerated employment, office, profession etc

Articles for Building Magazine, CMP Information Ltd, PO Box 313, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1YB.
(Up to £5,000)

Received £800 for writing two articles. Hours: 4 hrs. (*Registered 4 August 2010*)

Received £800 for writing two articles. Hours: 4 hrs. (*Registered 18 November 2010*)

Received £400 for writing one article. Hours: 2 hrs. (*Registered 20 January 2011*)

Received £400 for writing one article. Hours: 2 hrs. (*Registered 11 March 2011*)

Articles for the Municipal Journal, Hemming Group Ltd, 32 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1V 2SS. (Up to £5,000)

Received £260 (excluding VAT) for writing articles Hours: 2 hrs. (*Registered 4 August 2010*)

Received £780 (excluding VAT) for writing three articles. Hours: 6 hrs. (*Registered 18 November 2010*)

Received £880 (excluding VAT) for writing 3 articles. Hours: 6 hrs. (*Registered 20 January 2011*)

Received £520 (excluding VAT) for writing 2 articles. Hours: 4 hrs. (*Registered 11 March 2011*)

Received £520 (excluding VAT) for writing 2 articles. Hours: 4 hrs. (*Registered 25 May 2011*)

Fire Protection Association Council (non-executive board member and chair), London Road, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, GL56 0RH. Work involves advising on the development of the FPA's work and mission to promote fire safety, including attendance at board meetings.
(£5,001-£10,000)

Received £3500 (excluding VAT) covering November 2009 to April 2010. Estimated hours: 13 hours.

Received £3,500 (excluding VAT) covering May-October 2010. Hours: 11 hrs.

Occasional lecturer for Westminster Explained. Address: 4 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7DL.

Other

Non-remunerated interests:

Chair, Centre for Public Scrutiny

President, National Home Improvement Council

President, Youthbuild (UK)

Trustee, Open City

Trustee, South London Special League
Hon Fellow, Royal Institute of British Architects
Hon Fellow, Royal Town Planning Institute
Hon Fellow, Institution of Civil Engineers
Hon Fellow, Institution of Structural Engineers
Hon Member, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Hon Member, Chartered Institute of Housing
Vice-President, Town and Country Planning Association

11 October 2011

WALLEY, Joan (Stoke On Trent North)

2. *Remunerated employment, office, profession etc*

Payment of £75 received on 18 March 2011 from Populus, 10 Northburgh Street, London EC1V 0AT, for opinion survey in February 2011. Hours: 15 mins. Payment donated to charity.

4. *Sponsorship or financial or material support*

(b) Other support in the capacity of an MP:

The Lighting Industry Federation pay part of the salary of a researcher in my office who provides support to the All-Party Parliamentary Lighting Group of which I am Joint Chair.

WILLIAMS, Stephen (Bristol West)

6. *Overseas visits*

Name of donor:

- (1) Sir Joseph Hotung Programme for Law, Human Rights and Peace Building in the Middle East
- (2) Medical Aid for Palestinians

Address of donor:

- (1) School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG
- (2) 23a Islington Park Street, London N1 1QB

Amount of donation (or estimate of the probable value): £1,000

Destination of visit: East Jerusalem, Jericho, Hebron and other locations in the occupied Palestinian territories and the State of Israel

Date of visit: 31 May–3 June 2011

Purpose of visit: better understanding of issues facing Palestinian population in occupied territories and to meet representatives of the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli Ministry of

Foreign Affairs. The visit was facilitated by the Council for Arab British Understanding, of which I am a board member.

8. Land and Property

Flat in Bristol, pending sale.

18 October 2011

PATEL, Priti (Witham)

2. Remunerated employment, office, profession etc

Payment of £150 from Ipsos MORI, 79-81 Borough Road, London SE1 1FY, for a survey/interview. Payment donated to charity. Hours: 40 mins. (*Registered 1 November 2010*)

Payment of £50 from Populus, 10 Northburgh Street, London EC1V 0AT, for opinion research. Hours: 15 mins. Payment donated to charity. (*Registered 19 January 2011*)

Payments from ComRes, Four Millbank, London SW1P 3JA, for completion of surveys:

14 February 2011, payment of £75, donated to charity. Hours: 45 mins.

8 March 2011, payment of £75, donated to charity. Hours: 45 mins.

28 April 2011, payment of £75, donated to charity. Hours: 45 mins.

26 May 2011, payment of £75, donated to charity. Hours: 45 mins.

17 June 2011, payment of £75, donated to charity. Hours: 45 mins.

Payment of £500 from the Mail on Sunday, Northcliffe House, 2 Derry Street, Kensington, London W8 5TT, for an unpublished article. Payment donated to charity. Hours: 2 hrs. (*Registered 8 March 2011*)

6. Overseas visits

Name of donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bahrain

Address of donor: c/o the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain, 30 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QB

Amount of donation (or estimate of the probable value): flights and hotel accommodation, value £3,279

Destination of visit: Bahrain

Date of visit: 21–25 October 2010

Purpose of visit: to meet Bahraini Government Ministers