



Speaker's House Westminster London SW1A 0AA

12 February 2014

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter and enclosures of 11 February. I am content with the revised Supplementary Estimate and I understand that urgent steps are being taken to secure the agreement of SCIPSA members before it is laid before the House.

Yours sincerely
John

Rt. Hon John Bercow MP
Speaker

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11 February 2014

Our ref: BO-1053

Dear Mr Speaker,

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 2013/14: MINOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS

I write to request an urgent, very minor technical revision to our Supplementary Estimate for 2013/14, which needs to be laid in the House by Thursday morning at the latest. I am sorry that I must do so at such short notice: the need for us to do so arises because of what appears to be an oversight by officials at HM Treasury, who wrongly informed officials in the House of Commons Scrutiny Unit that they had no concerns about the form of Supplementary Estimate.

This particular issue arises because, on 28 January 2014, the Speaker's Committee for the IPSA (SCIPSA) agreed that IPSA should report separately on the income it receives under the *MPs' Scheme of Business Costs and Expenses*. This was reflected in our Supplementary Estimate as an additional text line in IPSA's ambit (*Part I*) and also as a budget-neutral separation of income and expenditure budget figures (*Part II*).

Earlier today, the Treasury wrote to us explaining that, in order for that amendment to be registered on their systems, we need to make a further notional change to the Supplementary Estimate of just £1k. That is because, in order for the ambit

amendment to feed through into the Supplementary Estimate publication documents, it cannot be budget neutral. I very much regret that officials at the Treasury did not identify the issue with their systems earlier in the process. We are accordingly proposing to show a notional income line of £1k for the change in ambit. The net effect of this is a £1k reduction in IPSA's DEL budget.

This all means that it is now necessary for me to ask the SCIPSA to approve this change, which alters very slightly some of the figures in the Supplementary Estimate. A revised version of that Supplementary Estimate accompanies this letter (along with a version marked up to show the amendments). I am grateful to your officials, who have indicated that SCIPSA might be willing to consider by correspondence whether it is content with this minor change so that our Supplementary Estimate can be laid on Thursday morning.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew McDonald', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Andrew McDonald
Chief Executive