



Richard Lloyd
Interim Chair, Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority
85 Strand, London
WC2R 0DW

26th October 2020

Dear Richard

Consultation On Periodic Adjustments To MPs' Pay, Autumn 2020

I am writing on behalf of the SNP Westminster Group to express our objection to any uplift in the salary paid by IPSA to Members of Parliament in the coming financial year.

We are aware that IPSA has a statutory duty to review and consult on MPs' pay following each general election, but we are not aware that this duty extends to a requirement to implement any adjustment to the salary or other aspects of remuneration.

The economic crisis resulting from the coronavirus pandemic has left many of our constituents unemployed or in severe financial difficulty. Our salaries are paid from public funds, which are also under highly significant pressure as a result of the pandemic. It is simply not appropriate or acceptable that Members of Parliament should benefit from a salary uplift at a time when so many of those who elect us are struggling.

IPSA's consultation document recognises that MPs pay "inevitably engenders" "political controversy", and that IPSA's aim has been to take "the politics" out of decision making in this area. Any uplift in MPs' pay at this time – even by an independent, statutory body such as IPSA – will be extremely controversial and have political implications.

We would strongly encourage IPSA to recognise the exceptional situation resulting from the pandemic, the significant pressure on public finances, and the clear views being expressed to us by our constituents, and confirm that it will not implement any uplift in MPs' pay in the coming financial year.

I expect that many Members of the SNP Westminster Group will respond directly to IPSA's consultation on this matter in similar terms. I would be happy to discuss this matter directly with you if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Ian Blackford MP
Leader, SNP Westminster Group