



Investigation Closure Report

Mr Phil Boswell MP

Member of Parliament for Coatbridge Chryston and Bellshill
COM-1065

13 June 2016

Peter Davis
Compliance Officer for IPSA
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On 12 May 2016, the Compliance Officer for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) published a Statement of Provisional Findings as part of his investigation into expense claims made by Mr Phil Boswell MP. The claims were submitted under the Seventh Edition of the *MPs' Scheme of Business Costs and Expenses* ('the Scheme').

The investigation was instigated following a complaint from a member of the public regarding claims made for Office Costs Expenditure. The claims related to videos which were uploaded to the MP's channel on the video-sharing website YouTube, where they are publicly available to watch¹.

The investigation examined the content of six short videos, which comprised of four original videos and two replacement versions. The Statement of Provisional Findings concluded that five of the six videos contained material that was party-political and therefore not allowable under the Scheme. Claims for the videos totalling £555 should not therefore have been submitted by Mr Boswell and should not have been paid by IPSA.

Since the publication of the Statement of Provisional Findings, Mr Boswell has repaid this amount in full.

The Statement of Provisional Findings offered IPSA and Mr Boswell the opportunity to submit further representations regarding the content, with a deadline of 3 June 2016. None have been received.

Section 9(5) of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 ('the Act') requires that the Compliance Officer should, at this point, publish a Statement of Findings. However, if the following conditions are met, he may determine not to do so²:

- a. *The member accepts a provisional finding that the member was paid an amount under the MPs' allowances scheme that should not have been allowed;*
- b. *Such other conditions as may be specified by the IPSA are, in the Compliance Officer's view, met in relation to the case, and*
- c. *The member agrees to repay to the IPSA, in such manner and within such period as the Compliance Officer considers reasonable, such amount as the Compliance Officer considers reasonable (and makes the repayment accordingly)*³.

¹ The videos can be found online via this following address:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPIHgDveEA1Q9_9RdWmEkBQ/featured

² *Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 s.9(7)*

³ *Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 s.9(8)*. See the Act @ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/13>

As the above criteria have been met and as no further representations have been received, the Compliance Officer does not intend to publish as a Statement of Findings.

No further action is required by Mr Boswell or IPSA and the investigation is now closed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Davis', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Peter Davis

Compliance Officer for IPSA

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