



Investigation Closure Report

Mr Jim Shannon MP
Member of Parliament for Strangford
COM-1042

7 July 2016

Peter Davis
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On 26 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 Jim Shannon MP. The claims were submitted under the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Editions of the *MPs' Scheme of Business Costs and Expenses* ('the Scheme').

The case was opened following a request for an investigation submitted by IPSA regarding claims submitted by Mr Shannon for staff constituency mileage under Chapter Nine: Travel and Subsistence Expenditure.

The Statement of Provisional Findings concluded that there had been a number of breaches of the Scheme by Mr Shannon resulting in total overpayments by IPSA of £13,925.86.

Since the Statement of Provisional Findings was published, a meeting between the Compliance Officer, IPSA and the MP has taken place. During the course of this meeting Mr Shannon handed IPSA a cheque for £10,000. Thereafter, IPSA and Mr Shannon agreed that the remaining £3,925.86 would be repaid by means of ten equal salary deductions.

The Statement of Provisional Findings states that if Mr Shannon is unable to repay the overpayment in full then, in accordance with Schedule 4 of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 (the Act), the Compliance Officer will be required to make a Repayment Direction. The Act also requires that the Repayment Direction shall contain details of the period before which the outstanding amount must be repaid.

The Compliance Officer is satisfied with the agreement reached between IPSA and Mr Shannon to repay the outstanding amount via salary deductions over a period of ten months commencing in June 2016. Therefore, this agreement will constitute the Repayment Direction. To satisfy the requirements of the Act, the final salary deduction must take place no later than April 2017.

In addition, the Statement of Provisional Findings offered IPSA and Mr Shannon an opportunity to submit further representations with a deadline of 16 June 2016. None have been received from either party.

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 so¹:

- 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*

¹ *Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 s.9(7)*

- 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)*².

As the Compliance Officer is satisfied that these criteria have been met, he does not intend to publish as a Statement of Findings.

No further action is required by Mr Shannon or the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority and the investigation is now closed.

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

Peter Davis

Compliance Officer for IPSA

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² *Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 s.9(8)*. See the Act @ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/13>