

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

MOTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW LAY MEMBER OF THE SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY (SCIPSA)

The motion provides for the formal appointment to the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (SCIPSA) of Ms Tina Fahm as a lay member. This is to replace Cindy Butts, whose appointment ended on 29 February 2024. Ms Fahm's appointment is for a period of five years from 6 May 2024.

The Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority was established by the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009. It considers the candidates proposed by the Speaker, following fair and open competition, for the posts of Chair and members of the IPSA and approves IPSA's annual estimate of resources.

The Committee is chaired by the Speaker. Its other members are the Leader of the House, the Chair of the Committee on Standards and five backbenchers appointed by the House. The current membership is Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP (Speaker), Rt Hon. Penny Mordaunt MP (ex-officio), Rt Hon. Harriet Harman KC MP, Marion Fellows MP, Sir Charles Walker MP, Lucy Powell MP, Rt Hon. Sir Desmond Swayne MP, Mrs Heather Wheeler MP, Peter Blausten (lay member) and Theresa Middleton CBE (lay member).

Lay members must be appointed to the SCIPSA in accordance with Schedule 3 of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009, as amended by the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010. This provides that:

- there should be three lay members;
- a lay member may not be, or have been, a Member of either House;
- candidates whose names are put to the House must be selected by the Speaker on merit, on the basis of fair and open competition;
- appointments are for a fixed term, of up to five years; and
- a lay member may not be reappointed.

The Act requires that appointments are made by resolution of the House, with the agreement of the Speaker. The individual named on the motion was selected by the Speaker on merit, on the basis of fair and open competition, in accordance with the statute. The recruitment competition required by the statute was conducted at the Speaker's request by a Board chaired by the then Clerk Assistant, Sarah Davies. The other board members were: Peter

Blausten (SCIPSA lay member), Isabel Doverty (independent panel member), and Andy Williamson (Head of Resources, People and Culture, House of Commons Service).

The Board was assisted by a specialist recruitment agency, Nurole. The recruitment process involved stages of advertisement, shortlisting and interview.

The candidate named in the motion, Tina Fahm, has held a number of board roles across the public sector, including as an Independent Chair at the Ministry of Defence's Directorate for Children and Young People, a Commissioner at the Independent Commission for Aid Impact, and a Commissioner at the Legal Services Commission. Other board roles have included Governor roles at the London School of Economics and Political Science and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, as well as a member at the Standards of Conduct Committee at the Royal Economic Society. The interviewing panel concluded that Ms Fahm's experience and approach would support the scrutiny of IPSA and found that she had demonstrated a strong appreciation and understanding of the roles of SCIPSA and IPSA.

The duration of the appointments of lay members of the SCIPSA are staggered in order to provide continuity for the Committee. Accordingly, the motion provides that Ms Fahm should be appointed for five years.

The Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 provides that the remuneration of these posts should be determined by the Speaker. The level of remuneration has been set at £300 per day with the level of commitment required estimated to be around ten days per year. At the Speaker's direction, and in accordance with the statute, this remuneration will be paid by the IPSA together with reasonable expenses.

**SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE IPSA
April 2024**