SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE IPSA

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 22 JANUARY 2025

THE SPEAKER'S STUDY

Present:

Mr Speaker (Chair)	
Peter Blausten	Gordon McKee
Alberto Costa	Theresa Middleton
Tina Fahm	Charlotte Nichols
Marie Goldman	Jesse Norman
Leigh Ingham	Lucy Powell

In private

1. Minutes of last meeting

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of 27 November.

2. Recruitment arrangements to IPSA's board

The Committee noted a letter from the Chair of IPSA on recruitment arrangements for forthcoming IPSA board vacancies, dated 2 January 2025.

3. IPSA's Supplementary Estimate for 2024/25

The Committee noted:

- IPSA's Supplementary Estimate for 2024/25;
- IPSA's Explanatory Memorandum 2024/25;
- A letter from Rt Hon. Darren Jones MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, to Mr Speaker dated 16 July 2025, providing Treasury's advice on IPSA's Supplementary Estimate for 2024/25; and
- The Scrutiny Unit's briefing on the Supplementary Estimate.

4. MPs' staffing and office cost budgets for 2025/26

The Committee noted:

- a letter from the Chair of IPSA, dated 2 January 2025; and
- a note by the Scrutiny Unit on MP staffing and office cost budgets for 2025/26

In public

5. IPSA’s Supplementary Estimate for 2024/25

Richard Lloyd OBE, Chair, and Ian Todd, Chief Executive, IPSA, gave oral evidence on IPSA’s Supplementary Estimate.

6. Consideration of IPSA’s Supplementary Estimate for 2024/25 and budgets for 2025/26

The Committee agreed to:

- publish IPSA’s Supplementary Estimate Explanatory Memorandum and the Treasury’s advice on IPSA’s Supplementary Estimate for 2024/25;
- lay IPSA’s Supplementary Estimate for 2024/25 before the House.
- approve IPSA informing MPs of the proposed changes to staffing and office cost budgets for 2025 ahead of the formal estimate process in March 2025.

7. Committee working practices

It was agreed that the Committee may take routine decisions by email correspondence, provided that: (a) proposed routine decisions are first sent by email to all members of the Committee; and (b) members of the Committee are given 72 hours from the email being sent to object to any proposed decision.

8. Any other business

None.

[The Committee adjourned

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 11 MARCH 2025

Committee Room 8

Present:

Mr Speaker (Chair)	
Alberto Costa	Theresa Middleton
Tina Fahm	Charlotte Nichols
Marie Goldman	Jesse Norman
Leigh Ingham	Lucy Powell
Gordon McKee	

In private

1. Minutes of last meeting

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of 22 January 2025.

1. Consideration of Treasury advice on IPSA's Main Estimate for 2025/26

The Committee considered the Treasury's advice on IPSA's Main Estimate for 2025/26 and agreed to publish it on the Committee's website.

The advice stated that if IPSA were a central Government department the Treasury would have sought to reduce the 10 per cent. increase in MPs' staff costs and reduce the 7 per cent. increase in MPs' accommodation & office costs and 17 per cent. increase in MPs' uncapped budgets. It was noted that central Government departments cannot request additional funding for contingency spending.

The Committee noted the Chief Secretary to the Treasury stated his reflections were given in the context of how the Treasury would respond to Government departments on main estimates for 2025/26.

2. Discussion of lines of questioning for public evidence session with IPSA witnesses

The Committee discussed and allocated questions for the evidence session with IPSA.

The Committee noted correspondence from a Member regarding MPs' pay and staffing budgets. The Committee also noted correspondence with trade unions.

Charlotte Nichols drew attention to her membership of Unite the Union in the context of asking the question on staff pay. Other Committee members also noted their union membership.

In public

3. Evidence session: IPSA's Main Estimate for 2025/26

Richard Lloyd OBE, Chair, and Ian Todd, Chief Executive, IPSA gave oral evidence on IPSA's Main Estimate for 2025/26.

In private

4. Consideration of IPSA's Main Estimate for 2025/26

The Committee, having had regard to the Treasury advice and IPSA's oral evidence, found IPSA's request for resources to be appropriate and consistent with the efficient and cost-effective discharge of IPSA's functions.

The Committee agreed to:

- lay IPSA's Main Estimate for 2025/26 before the House of Commons.
- publish IPSA's Main Estimates Memorandum.

5. Any other business

There was no other business.

[The Committee adjourned

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 20 OCTOBER 2025

Speaker's Study

Present:

Mr Speaker (Chair)	
Sir Alan Campbell	Gordon McKee
Alberto Costa	Theresa Middleton
Mary Curnock Cook	Charlotte Nichols
Tina Fahm	Jesse Norman
Marie Goldman	

In private

1. Declarations of interests

Sir Alan Campbell and Mary Curnock Cook were welcomed to their first meeting. They confirmed that they had no relevant interests to declare.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of 11 March 2025.

3. Briefing on IPSA's Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25

The Committee was briefed by Peter Brook, the Scrutiny Unit, on IPSA's Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25 and financial update.

4. IPSA progress update

Richard Lloyd, Chair, Karen Walker, Chief Executive, Lee Bridges, Director of Policy and Engagement, IPSA, were questioned on areas covering:

- IPSA's Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25;

- IPSA's priorities for 2025-26; and
- IPSA's financial position against its Main Estimate for 2025-26.

The Committee noted the following:

- a letter from Karen Walker, *Introduction to SCIPSA*, dated 24 September 2025.
- a letter from Richard Lloyd on IPSA's Citizens' Forum on MPs' pay and funding and a new approach to consultation, dated 1 October 2025.
- *The Citizens Forum on MPs' pay and funding* report, published on 6 October 2025.

The Committee agreed that IPSA should provide written notes on:

- the implementation of principles-based regulation ahead of the Committee's meeting on the main estimate in March 2026.
- performance against the latest multi-year corporate plan at meetings when main estimates or annual reports were to be considered by the Committee.

Following the discussion on IPSA's need for a supplementary estimate, it was agreed that the Chair have discretion to decide whether the supplementary estimate be considered by the Committee by correspondence or at a formal meeting.

5. Recruitment of members to the IPSA board

The Committee considered a panel's report on the recruitment of ordinary members of the IPSA board. The Committee agreed that Manbhinder Rana be appointed to the statutory auditor role for a five-year term and that Sir Charles Walker be appointed to the former Member's position also for a five-year term.

6. Any other business

There was no other business.

[The Committee adjourned

Pursuant with the Committee's resolution of 22 January 2025 to allow decisions by correspondence, the following decision was taken by correspondence:

<u>*24 October 2025*</u>

The Committee agreed its First Report on *Appointment of IPSA Board Members (Former Member and Statutory Auditor),* HC1426.