



**Independent Parliamentary
Standards Authority**

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www.parliamentarystandards.org.uk

John Humble
Via email

Our ref: CAS-44974

20 April 2016

Dear Mr Humble,

Thank you for your email of 19 March 2016 in which you requested information relating to the staffing arrangements of Emma Lewell-Buck MP. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You made the following request.

Employment of parliamentary assistant (PA) Mr S Buck for Emma Lewell Buck MP for South Shields.

Please could you provide the following information:

How long has the Mr Buck been in the job?

What are Mr Buck's responsibilities?

What qualifications does Mr Buck have for the job?

Was the role advertised?

If so, when and where was it advertised and how many people applied for the position?

What dates did interviews take place?

Were unsuccessful applicants notified?

What did the selection process entail?

Under the *MPs' Scheme of Business Costs and Expenses* ('the Scheme'), Staffing Expenditure may be claimed to meet the cost incurred in the provision of staff to assist with the performance of an MP's parliamentary functions. It may only be claimed for the salary of one employee who is a connected party (unless an MP employed more than one connected party prior to 7 May 2010).

Following the end of each financial year, we publish information on each MP's annual expenditure, which includes information on the employment of any connected parties. You can find this information on our website at the following address:

<http://www.parliamentary-standards.org.uk/AnnualisedData.aspx>.

Mr Buck began employment as a Parliamentary Assistant on 10 November 2015. You can find typical responsibilities for different roles, including that of a Parliamentary Assistant, on our website at the following address:

<http://parliamentarystandards.org.uk/Job%20Description/Documents/MP%20staff%20JDs%20spreadsheet%2015%20-%2016.pdf/>

Although the salaries of staff members are paid by IPSA, MPs remain the legal employer of their staff members, and are responsible for most employment arrangements (including the arrangements necessary for employing individuals for vacant roles). As such, the remaining information that you have requested is not held by IPSA. You may wish to contact the MP directly, however you should be aware that MPs as individuals are not subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

How to request an internal review of this response

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an internal review. The internal review will be carried out by someone who was not involved in the original decision, and who will assess the handling of the original request.

If you wish to request an internal review, please write to IPSA within two months of the date of this letter, at the following address:

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority
4th Floor
30 Millbank
London
SW1P 4DU.

Or by email to: foi@parliamentarystandards.org.uk

If you remain dissatisfied after an internal review decision, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) under Section 50 of the FOIA. You may contact the ICO at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Or you may wish to visit the [ICO's website](#).

Yours sincerely,

Chris Veck
Freedom of Information Officer