

Mr Paul Smith  
Via email:

**T 020 7811 6400**

Our ref: FOI118

10 January 2011

Dear Mr Smith,

Thank you for your email of 6 December 2010 in which you requested information relating to expense claims submitted by Mr Nick Clegg MP. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I can confirm that IPSA holds the information that falls within the description specified in your request.

IPSA releases details about MPs' expense claims paid under the new, independent regime on IPSA's dedicated publication website [www.parliamentary-standards.org.uk](http://www.parliamentary-standards.org.uk) as a matter of routine. The first tranche of expense claims, covering claims processed from 7 May to 31 August, were published on the 2 December 2010. In this period of time, Mr Nick Clegg MP did not submit any expense claims to be processed.

Details of any expense claims submitted by Mr Clegg and processed in September and October 2010 will be published on the IPSA website on Thursday 3 February 2011. Claims processed in November and December 2010 will be published on Thursday 7 April 2011. Details of any claims not paid by IPSA for Mr Clegg will also be published on these dates. Therefore, in IPSA's view, the information you have requested is exempt under Section 22 of the FOIA (Information intended for future publication).

IPSA will not, as a matter of course, publish images of receipts or invoices supporting claims. We believe that the information we publish provides a significant amount of detail and gives a clear picture of what MPs are claiming for and affords reassurance that claims are both appropriate for MPs to carry out their parliamentary functions, and in accordance with the rules set out in the MPs' Expenses Scheme.

The appropriate cost limit for responding to a Freedom of Information request is set at £450 (Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the FOIA). This represents the estimated cost of determining whether IPSA holds the information, and locating, retrieving and

extracting the information. We have estimated that it will take more than 18 hours to collect and extract the information you have requested which is above the cost limit. Consequently, IPSA is not obliged by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to respond to your request (see section 12(1)).

If you wish to seek further information contained on supporting evidence submitted by Mr Clegg for any specific expense claims once the next tranche of claims are published, we would be happy to consider your request again.

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:

7th Floor  
Portland House  
Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5BH

Or by email to:  
e-mail: [foi@parliamentarystandards.org.uk](mailto: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 under Section 50 of the FOIA. You may contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

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

Internet: [https://www.ico.gov.uk/Global/contact\\_us.aspx](https://www.ico.gov.uk/Global/contact_us.aspx)

Yours sincerely,

Miss Kiran Virdee  
Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority