



**Independent Parliamentary
Standards Authority**

4th Floor
30 Millbank
London
SW1P 4DU.

T 020 7811 6400

Via email

Our ref: F1415-107

7 January 2014

Dear _____,

Thank you for your email of 20 December 2014 in which you requested information relating to repayments made by Roger Godsiff MP. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You made the following request.

After the MP's expenses scandal Rodger Godsiff was found to have claimed for items such as a lawnmower and bath mats. How much over the past 5 years has the MP paid back to the taxpayer due to "accidental" claims

IPSA began operations on 7 May 2010 and does not hold information relating to claims made or processed prior to that date. Prior to 7 May 2010, the administration of business costs and expenses was the responsibility of the Department of Resources at the House of Commons. For information relating to claims made prior to 7 May 2010, you may wish to contact the House of Commons FOI team at the following email address:

FOICommons@parliament.uk.

IPSA hold information relating to any repayments which have been made since 7 May 2010.

Repayments are made by MPs to IPSA for a variety of reasons, including:

- refunding business costs and expenses that an MP no longer wishes to claim;
- refunding transactions on a payment card that an MP has been charged incorrectly or where the MP no longer wishes to claim; or
- where an MP is in receipt of a rebate, a refund or a contribution towards business costs and expenses incurred from a third party, for example, where office space is shared.

Information relating to repayments may be found via this [link to our publication website](#). The following instructions will assist you in locating the information:

1. Select the 'Data Downloads' section of the publication website
2. Select the spreadsheet for the financial year your are interested in, under the 'Annual Archive' heading
3. Open or save the spreadsheet
4. Filter the 'status' column to 'repaid'

The FOIA states that information that is easily accessible by other means is not subject to release. Therefore, as the information you have requested is already available on our website it is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the FOIA (information accessible to applicant by other means).

For your reference, the next publication date is 8 January 2015, which will cover those claims processed by IPSA during August and September 2014. Claims subsequently processed by IPSA will follow in future publications.

As some information is intended for future, publication. It is exempt from release under Section 22(1) of the FOIA.

We have considered whether the public interest in releasing the information outweighs the application of the exemption. It is our opinion that the public interest is best served by publishing a full list rather than on an ad hoc basis, as in this way a clear and complete set of information is published, avoiding any potential confusion. It is for this reason that the application of the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure at this stage.

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