



Statement of Provisional Findings

Mr Simon Danczuk MP
Member of Parliament for Rochdale
COM-1066

18 March 2016

Peter Davis
Compliance Officer for IPSA
4th Floor
30 Millbank
London
SW1P 4DU

Introduction

1. This Statement of Provisional Findings is issued in accordance with Section 9 and 9A of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 (the Act) and the *Third Edition of the Procedures for Investigations* ('the Procedures') by the Compliance Officer for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA).
2. On 1 February 2016, following a number of newspaper articles and the receipt of a complaint from a member of the public, the Compliance Officer opened an investigation into claims submitted by Mr Simon Danczuk MP under the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Editions of the *MPs' Scheme of Business Costs and Expenses* ('the Scheme').
3. The material in the press was confined to allegations relating to claims for dependant uplifts under Chapter Four of the Scheme, Accommodation Expenditure; however, the complainant made a further allegation relating to claims for dependant travel under Chapter Nine: Travel and Subsistence Expenditure.
4. The complainant questioned the validity of a number of dependant travel claims between the MP's constituency and Westminster. These have been closely scrutinised by the Compliance Officer who can find no evidence of a breach of the Scheme. Therefore, these claims do not form part of this report.
5. On 4 February 2016, the Compliance Officer received a further allegation from the same complainant regarding a car parking charge claimed by Mr Danczuk under Chapter Nine: Travel and Subsistence Expenditure. The claim in question is covered by the Seventh Edition of the Scheme. Analysis of this allegation indicated that a further breach of the Scheme may have occurred and it has therefore been addressed within this report.
6. The investigation has now been concluded. Prior to publication, and in accordance with the Procedures, both IPSA and Mr Danczuk were given sight of the draft findings and provided with the opportunity to make representations. Where appropriate, these have been incorporated into the published document or added as appendices.
7. The MP was notified of his option under Paragraph 18 of the Procedures for a meeting in order to make any representations in person. Mr Danczuk has chosen to make his representations in writing and has not requested a meeting.
8. The Procedures for Investigation also require that I provide each party with any documentation submitted by the other. However, this provision does not apply in this case, as neither party has provided any pertinent documentation.

9. The Compliance Officer is grateful to Mr Danczuk for his cooperation during the investigation.

The Investigation

10. In the course of his investigation, the Compliance Officer has:
- a) obtained all relevant information and data from IPSA;
 - b) conducted extensive open source research;
 - c) met with, spoken with and corresponded with the MP; and
 - d) met and/or spoken with both former spouses.
11. Mr Danczuk has four children. The two from his first marriage are teenagers while the two from his second marriage are considerably younger. The MP is divorced from both women.
12. Following the election of Mr Danczuk in May 2010, IPSA immediately began paying claims for London hotel expenditure. In June 2010, Mr Danczuk moved into rented accommodation in London and thereafter submitted claims for rental and associated costs. In December 2010, following receipt of the necessary paperwork, IPSA began making direct rental payments to the owner of the accommodation.
13. In May 2012, Mr Danczuk moved into larger London accommodation and in June the same year, IPSA began making direct rental payments to the owner of his new accommodation. He again moved in June 2013.
14. The Second Edition of the *MPs' Expenses Scheme* was published in July 2010 and covered the period until April 2011. In Part 5: Accommodation Expenditure, it states:

Additional budgets for MPs with responsibility for caring for others

5.17 A member who is eligible to claim Accommodation Expenses for rental costs may claim an additional amount of up to £2,425 in any financial year for any additional expenditure that may be required, for each person for whom that Member has caring responsibilities.

5.18 For this purpose a Member will be deemed to have caring responsibilities in the circumstances set out in the table below:

Description	Eligibility
<i>A dependent child of up to the age of five years</i>	<i>All Members</i>
<i>A dependent child in full-time education, of up to the age of 21 years</i>	<i>Members who are the sole carer only</i>

15. In June 2010, Mr Danczuk registered his two youngest children with IPSA in order to qualify for the additional funding; both were under five years of age.

16. The Fourth Edition of the *MPs' Scheme of Business Costs and Expenses* covers the period from April 2012 to March 2013. In Chapter Four: Accommodation Expenditure, it includes the following:

Additional budgets for MPs with caring responsibilities

5.17 *An MP who is eligible to claim Accommodation Expenditure for rental costs¹ may have his or her budget limit increased by up to £2,425 in any financial year for any additional expenditure that may be required, for each person for whom that MP has caring responsibilities (known hereafter as the "dependant"), provided that he or she can certify that the dependant routinely resides at the rented accommodation.*

MPs will become eligible for this additional expenditure once they register their dependants(s) with IPSA. If an MP is expecting a child or is in the process of adoption, and the MP wishes to secure new accommodation as a result, he or she should notify IPSA as soon as possible. Early notification will assist both the MP and IPSA in making the appropriate arrangements.

5.17 *For the purposes of this Scheme MPs will be deemed to have caring responsibilities where they:*

- a. have parental responsibility for a dependent child of up to the age of 16, or up to the age of 18 if in full-time education; or*
- b. are the sole carer for a dependent child in full-time education, of up to the age of 21 years.*

Conditions applicable to Accommodation Expenditure

5.17 *An MP's entitlement to an uplift in his or her budget for Accommodation Expenditure attributable to caring responsibilities as set out in paragraph 4.20 shall cease under the following circumstances:*

¹ This relates only to non-London area MPs.

- a. In the case of any dependant, when that person ceases to reside routinely at the property with the MP;*
- b. in the case of a dependent child under the age of 16 years, six months after the end of the financial year during which the child attains that age;*
- c. In the case of a dependent child in full-time education between the ages of 16 and 18 years, six months after the end of the financial year during which the child turns 18 or concludes full-time education whichever is the earlier;*
- d. In the case of a dependent child in full-time education between the ages of 18 and 21 years for whom the MP is the sole carer, six months after the end of the financial year during which the child turns 21 or concludes full-time education whichever is the earlier.*

17. In April 2012, Mr Danczuk registered his older two children with IPSA in order to qualify for the additional accommodation funding.
18. As can be seen from the above extracts taken from the Second and Fourth Editions of the Scheme, major alterations were made to the conditions relating to the additional accommodation funding, commonly referred to as a dependant uplift, between Mr Danczuk registering his two younger children in 2010 and the older two in April 2012. The Fourth Edition of the Scheme requires the children to be ‘*routinely resident*’ at the accommodation, although the term is not defined by the Scheme.
19. The Scheme clearly states that the uplift will cease when the children are no longer routinely resident.
20. The following areas of the Scheme² are also relevant to the investigation:

Chapter Three: General Conditions of the Scheme

- 3.2 *In making any claim under the Scheme, an MP must certify that the expenditure was necessary for performance of his or her parliamentary functions, and that in incurring the expenditure he or she has complied with the Scheme.*

Chapter Four: Accommodation Expenditure

- 4.1 *Accommodation Expenditure is designed to meet costs necessarily incurred on overnight accommodation which is required for the performance of an MP’s parliamentary functions.*
- 4.3 *MPs may only claim for Accommodation Expenditure in relation to a property at one location, which may be either:*

² Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, (2012), *MPs’ Scheme of Business Costs and Expenses (Fourth Edition)*. London: The Stationery Office.

- a. *in the London area;*
- b. *within the MP's constituency, or within 20 miles of any point on the constituency boundary.*

Schedule 1: Fundamental Principles

1. *Members of Parliament should always behave with probity and integrity when making claims on public resources. MPs should be held, and regard themselves, as personally responsible and accountable for expenses incurred, and claims made, and for adherence to these principles as well as the rules.*
2. *Members of Parliament have the right to be reimbursed for unavoidable costs where they are incurred wholly, exclusively and necessarily in the performance of their parliamentary functions, but not otherwise.*

21. By virtue of the location of his constituency, Mr Danczuk is permitted to claim for Accommodation Expenditure under the Scheme. This can either be in London or in his constituency³. Throughout his time as an MP, Mr Danczuk has chosen to claim for accommodation in London. The standard London Accommodation Expenditure budget for each financial year is as follows:

Financial year	London accommodation budget
2010- 2011	£19,900
2011-2012	£19,900
2012-2013	£20,000
2013-2014	£20,100
2014-2015	£20,600
2015-2016	£20,600

22. Enquiries regarding the attendance of the MP's younger two children at his London accommodation have not provided any evidence of a breach of the Scheme. This investigation is therefore confined to the attendance at his London accommodation of his older two children.

23. On 18 April 2012, IPSA were contacted by the MP's office on two occasions to ask about the dependant uplift. They enquired about the amount of the uplift for each dependent child and the total annual accommodation budget if all four children were registered. All

³ Or within 20 miles of his constituency

calls to IPSA's Information line are recorded and a transcript of these two calls can be seen at Annex A.

24. Details of all the accommodation expenditure claimed by Mr Danczuk since 2010 can be viewed on IPSA's publication website⁴. A table confined to information regarding the dependant uplifts claimed by the MP in the same period is contained at Annex B.
25. The Compliance Officer met with Mr Danczuk on 26 January 2016. During the course of the meeting, the MP provided the following explanation for the claims subject of this investigation.
26. Mr Danczuk said that around 2011 or 2012 a previous employee contacted IPSA regarding the accommodation uplift and when he was told by the employee that he was entitled to the uplift, he took this on trust.
27. The MP said that at the time the registration for the older two children was initiated he was seeing them regularly and he expected the situation to continue. Following the submission of the application for registration his relationship with his first wife deteriorated rapidly, compromising his ability to maintain contact with his older children.
28. Initially Mr Danczuk said that his oldest son had stayed with him in his London accommodation but he could not recall how often. However, when asked directly by the Compliance Officer if his older children ever stayed at his London accommodation, he replied "no".
29. Mr Danczuk was keen to make the point that the current level of contact with his older children was subject to change. He said it was impractical to amend the status of this contact with IPSA whenever it varied and, as a result, move from a larger to a smaller flat and vice versa when his Accommodation Expenditure budget was amended accordingly. Mr Danczuk said that IPSA's Scheme required him to predict when his older children may or may not visit which was not possible.
30. He went on to say that he believed his older children were still dependent as, since separating from his first wife, he had continued to pay child support.
31. On 10 February 2016, the Compliance Officer met with the MP's first wife, Sonia Rossington, at her home. She provided the following information.

⁴ The publication website for viewing MPs' claims can be found at: <http://www.parliamentary-standards.org.uk/>.

32. Mrs Rossington said she had been divorced from Mr Danczuk since May 2010 but direct contact with him had ceased in August 2009. She stated that he did not make contact with her in order to arrange to meet their children.
33. In February 2012, their son had contacted Mr Danczuk because he wanted to come to London and he subsequently stayed for one night. However, neither child had visited the MP in London since he moved to his larger accommodation. Their daughter had never been to any of his addresses in London.
34. Mrs Rossington said that in September 2013, Mr Danczuk contacted their son to arrange for the two children to visit his Rochdale home. Both children did subsequently visit the MP in Rochdale however, this had not led to further meetings.
35. Mrs Rossington believes there has been no relationship between the children and their father since 2009 and definitely not during the period when Mr Danczuk claimed for the budget uplift on the pretext that they were staying with him in London.
36. On 2 February 2016, the Compliance Officer spoke with Karen Danczuk, the MP's second wife.
37. Mrs Danczuk believes that the MP maintained regular contact with the children from his first marriage possibly until 2013 and that they had stayed in her home in Rochdale occasionally up until then. She was not certain whether either of his older children had stayed in his London accommodation but suspected that his son may have done so.
38. The information obtained from IPSA shows that Mr Danczuk registered his older children, for the purposes of obtaining a dependant uplift to his London accommodation rental costs, in April 2012. Until the commencement of this investigation in February 2016, Mr Danczuk was still in receipt of that funding.

Claim for car parking

39. When travelling to Westminster from his constituency, Mr Danczuk habitually takes his car to Manchester where he parks it in a railway station car park prior to taking the train to London. Mr Danczuk claims his car parking charges from IPSA.
40. On 20 July 2015, the day prior to Parliament going into summer recess, Mr Danczuk parked his car in Manchester and travelled to London. Between 22 July and 25 July 2015, he visited Ghana as a delegate with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

41. On 31 July 2015, Mr Danczuk posted a Tweet which read “*view from my Spanish gaff this morning. Lovely, but can’t wait to be back in Rochdale this afternoon*”. The Tweet can be seen at Annex C.
42. Mr Danczuk has confirmed to the Compliance Officer that between 26 July 2015 and 1 August 2015 he was on holiday in Spain. He travelled back to Manchester on the day of his return from holiday whereupon he recovered his car. Mr Danczuk submitted a claim for car parking charges for the entire period between 20 July 2015 and 1 August 2015.
43. The Compliance Officer has received confirmation from IPSA that the car parking charges incurred while the MP was in Ghana with the CPA are an allowable expense.
44. Charges in the car park used by Mr Danczuk are £17.50 for a twenty four hour period from Monday to Friday and £4.50 per day at weekends.
45. Mr Danczuk has written to the Compliance Officer with regards to this aspect of the investigation. He believes that, following his return from Ghana, it would have been more expensive to have travelled from London to Manchester to collect his car prior to his holiday, as the rail fare is greater than the car parking charge. The correspondence from Mr Danczuk is contained at Annex D.

Summary of the Provisional Findings

46. In relation to both matters covered by this report, Mr Danczuk has criticised the *MPs’ Scheme of Business Costs and Expenses*. His observations are correctly included in this report for the purposes of completeness but have no bearing on the Compliance Officer’s considerations.
47. The Compliance Officer is satisfied that the MP’s two youngest children have, and continue to visit, his London accommodation frequently enough to satisfy the criteria that they should be routinely resident.
48. The timeline of events regarding the dependant uplifts is as follows:
 - a. In June 2010, Mr Danczuk took up residence in rented London accommodation and began claiming the rental and associated costs from IPSA under the Scheme;
 - b. Also in June 2010, the MP registered his youngest two children with IPSA and received an uplift to his accommodation budget of £2,425 per dependant;
 - c. In February 2012, the MP’s eldest son (who was not yet registered as a dependant with IPSA) travelled to London and stayed overnight in his accommodation;

- d. In April 2012, two conversations took place between IPSA and the MP's office regarding the registration of his two older children and how much this would add to his accommodation budget;
 - e. Also in April 2012, the MP registered his two older children with IPSA and received a further uplift to his accommodation budget of £2,425 per dependant;
 - f. In May 2012, Mr Danczuk moved to larger London accommodation with higher monthly rental charges;
 - g. In June 2013, Mr Danczuk again moved premises to one with a slightly cheaper monthly rental.
49. In order to qualify for the dependant uplift, the Fourth Edition of the Scheme⁵ (and all subsequent editions) require the MP to certify that any dependant being claimed for *routinely resides at the rented accommodation*.
50. All available evidence points to the conclusion that the MP's oldest son stayed at his London accommodation once, prior to Mr Danczuk registering his older two children with IPSA and beginning to claim the additional uplift. There is no evidence that his daughter has ever stayed in London.
51. Subsequent to the registration of his older children with IPSA and the consequent claims for two further dependant uplifts, neither child has ever stayed at his London accommodation.
52. At the point that the MP registered his older children, his eldest son had not stayed at his London accommodation for approximately two months and his daughter had never stayed. Mrs Rossington, the MP's former wife, would argue that the MP had no relationship with the two children at this point and there was no viable prospect of them ever staying.
53. Despite this situation having persisted for over three years the MP has, at no stage, contacted IPSA in order to alert them to the fact that the children were not routinely resident, allowing IPSA the opportunity to reduce his Accommodation Expenditure budget accordingly.
54. The MP is entitled to claim a maximum of £2,425 per dependant for each financial year that they are 'routinely resident'. This takes the form of an uplift to the Accommodation Expenditure budget, against which additional claims can be made.

⁵ The Fourth Edition of the Scheme covers the period from April 2012 to March 2013.

55. As a result of having four dependants registered, the MP's Accommodation Expenditure budget was increased by £9,700 per year. Had the MP only registered two dependants, his Accommodation Expenditure budget would only have increased by £4,850 per year.
56. All non-London area MPs are provided with a standard annual accommodation budget for rental and associated costs⁶. They are at liberty to claim this entire budget, where costs have been legitimately incurred, or any part thereof. If an MP registers dependants, the uplift received for each is added to their standard accommodation budget but is not automatically paid. It is only paid in the event that the MP exceeds the standard budget and only for actual costs incurred. An MP does not automatically receive the entire uplift and the amount the MP is actually reimbursed may fluctuate between financial years.
57. The expenditure subject of this investigation is therefore confined to that which exceeds Mr Danczuk's standard accommodation budget and the uplift granted for the original two dependants. Tables depicting the two alternate budgets can be found at Annex B.
58. The amount paid to Mr Danczuk in each year in excess of his standard Accommodation Expenditure budget plus the uplift granted for just two dependants is as follows:

Financial year	Uplift
2012-13	£4,411.62
2013-14	£2,637.46
2014-15	£3,016.58
2015-16	£1,517.54*
Total	£11,583.20

*Following the meeting with Mr Danczuk, on 26 January 2016, the Compliance Officer contacted IPSA. He informed them that it was highly likely that the MP had breached the Scheme and that if they continued to pay his Accommodation Expenditure he would imminently exceed his accommodation budget for 2015-16. This was to allow IPSA the opportunity to stop payment of his rental costs and prevent an overspend which they may be required to recover at a later date. The Compliance Officer also contacted the MP to inform him of his actions.

IPSA chose to make a rental payment on 25 February 2016 with a view to reclaiming the overspend through deductions from the MP's wages.

⁶ The standard Accommodation Expenditure budgets for each financial year can be found within the table on page 7.

Claim for car parking

59. In July 2015, Mr Danczuk parked his private car at a Manchester railway station and travelled to London. After undertaking an engagement with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Ghana, he has travelled to Spain on a personal holiday. He subsequently submitted a claim for car parking charges covering the entire period.

60. At the time of submitting a claim, the Scheme requires an MP to *certify that the expenditure [is] necessary for performance of his or her parliamentary functions*⁷. Further, it requires that all claims should relate to costs that are *incurred wholly, exclusively and necessarily in the performance of their parliamentary functions*⁸.

61. The car parking charge incurred while the MP was on holiday amounts to £96.50.

Conclusions

62. The evidence points overwhelmingly to the conclusion that the MP obtained an increase to his Accommodation Expenditure budget by claiming dependant uplifts for his two oldest children for a period of over three years, when, at no point were either of the children routinely resident. The Compliance Officer must also conclude that this was done knowing that there was no reasonable prospect of the children staying at the accommodation.

63. The total claimed by the MP in breach of the Scheme and which he is required to repay is £11,583.20.

64. The MP has confirmed he claimed car parking charges between 26 July 2015 and 1 August 2015 while on holiday in Spain. Despite his protestations about the iniquity of the Scheme, this is not an allowable expense and should not have been claimed.

65. The total claimed by the MP in breach of the Scheme and which he is required to repay is £96.50.

Representations

66. In accordance with Section 9(4) of the Act and paragraph 14 of the Procedures, Mr Danczuk was given sight of the draft Statement of Provisional findings prior to publication.

⁷ Paragraph 3.2, Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, (2015), *MPs' Scheme of Business Costs and Expenses (Seventh Edition)*. London: The Stationery Office.

⁸ Fundamental Principle 2, Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, (2015), *MPs' Scheme of Business Costs and Expenses (Seventh Edition)*. London: The Stationery Office.

His written response can be seen at Annex E. The representations have not caused the Compliance Officer to alter the content of this statement.

67. The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has made no representations.

Further Representations and Case Resolution

68. Section 9(5) of the Parliamentary Standards Act and paragraph 26 of the Procedures permit Mr Danczuk and IPSA a further opportunity to make representations in writing to the Compliance Officer in respect of these provisional findings. In order to comply with this requirement, both parties will be given fifteen working days from the date of this statement to submit any further representations. These must be received by the Compliance Officer no later than 12 April 2016.

69. If further representations are received, the Compliance Officer will consider these before preparing a Statement of Findings.

70. In accordance with Sections 9(5), 9(7) and 9(8) of the Parliamentary Standards Act and the Notes for Guidance and Information of the Procedures for Investigation, the Compliance Officer may determine not to prepare a Statement of Findings if:

- a. *The member accepts a provisional finding that the member was paid an amount under the MPs' allowances scheme that should not have been allowed;*
- b. *Such other conditions as may be specified by the IPSA are, in the Compliance Officer's view, met in relation to the case, and*
- c. *The member agrees to repay to the IPSA, in such manner and within such period as the Compliance Officer considers reasonable, such amount as the Compliance Officer considers reasonable (and makes the repayment accordingly)*⁹.

71. However, as in this investigation the sum to be repaid is substantial, the Compliance Officer has written to IPSA and the MP requesting that they enter into immediate dialogue with a view to agreeing a repayment plan. If a plan can be agreed which is satisfactory to the Compliance Officer then this will form the basis for his Repayment Direction¹⁰.


⁹ *Parliamentary Standards Act 2009* s.9(8), Chapter 13, London : The Stationery Office, Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/13>, (Accessed 15 March 2016)

¹⁰ Schedule 4, *ibid*.

72. If such agreement is not possible then the Compliance Officer will be required to impose a Repayment Direction, in which he must “*specify the period before the end of which that amount is to be paid*”¹¹.

73. As Mr Danczuk is unlikely to repay the amount specified immediately, Section 9(8) of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 cannot have effect¹² and the Compliance Officer will be required to publish a Statement of Findings, which will contain details of the Repayment Direction.

74. The Compliance Officer would anticipate publishing his Statement of Findings no later than 18 April 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Davis', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Peter Davis

Compliance Officer for IPSA

compliance@theipsa.org.uk

¹¹ Section 1(5), Schedule 4, *ibid*.

¹² See paragraph 70

Transcript of phone call with Simon Danczuk's office

Date	April 18 2012
Time	3.01pm
IPSA staff member	[redacted]
<p>IPSA: Hello IPSA how can I help you?</p> <p>MP: Hello I'm ringing from Simon Danczuk's office and wondering if you could give us some information. Can you give me the figure that... the MP has four children, two are registered and we're going to register the other two. How much will that mean the MP can claim for rent for accommodation in London?</p> <p>IPSA: Well it's 2,425 per child.</p> <p>MP: 2,425?</p> <p>IPSA: Ok, and times that by four.</p> <p>MP: And that's on top of?</p> <p>IPSA: The accommodation budget is £20,000.</p> <p>MP: Exactly?</p> <p>IPSA: [Yes]</p> <p>MP: Thanks a lot.</p> <p>IPSA: Ok, bye.</p>	

Date	April 18 2012
Time	3.09 pm
IPSA staff member	[redacted]
<p>IPSA: Hello Information Team how can I help you?</p> <p>MP: Hi [redacted], I'm ringing from Simon Danczuk's office. I just want to check a few things with you, it's about MP's accommodation in London.</p> <p>IPSA: Yep.</p> <p>MP: We've got a quote from one of your colleagues that the budget for accommodation is £20,000?</p> <p>IPSA: That's it.</p> <p>MP: The MP has got 4 children, so that will be £2,425 per child.</p> <p>IPSA: Exactly.</p> <p>MP: From that budget, what comes out of it? Is it just rent, council tax, telephone, utilities for the London accommodation?</p> <p>IPSA: Yeah it's for the rent and the utility bills (water, electricity, gas) council tax, TV licence, landline, what else am I missing, insurance, contents insurance, sorry buildings..</p> <p>MP: Buildings and contents insurance?</p> <p>IPSA: All insurance actually yeah. I think that is it. I don't think I'm missing out on anything.</p> <p>MP: And that comes out of that overall budget?</p> <p>IPSA: Yeah from the whole budget, exactly. So it should be, let me just do some quick maths... [pause] yeah it should be £31,700.</p>	

MP: £31,700?

IPSA: That's right. Has he registered the children?

MP: No, there's two registered. There's going to be two more registered. But we're just getting the figures in advance.

IPSA: Brilliant.

MP: OK, so, OK so that's rent and the extra things?

IPSA: Absolutely.

MP: Thanks [redacted].

IPSA: No problem at all.

MP: Bye.

Table 1

This table shows the budgets that were allocated and the payments that were made following the requested uplift(s) by Mr Danczuk in 2010-11 and 2012-13.

Financial year	Standard London accommodation budget	Uplift granted	Total budget	Total accommodation claimed ¹³	Budget remaining
2010-11	£19900	£4850	£24750	£17754	£6995.56
2011-12	£19900	£4850	£24750	£24672	£78.31
2012-13	£20000	£9700	£29700	£29262	£438.38
2013-14	£20100	£9700	£29800	£27587	£2212.54
2014-15	£20600	£9700	£30300	£28467	£1833.42
2015-16	£20600	£9700	£30300	£26968	£3332.46

Table 2

This table shows the budgets that should have been allocated had the additional two dependants not been registered by Mr Danczuk in 2012-13.

Financial year	Standard London accommodation budget	Uplift (adjusted for two dependants)	Total budget	Total accommodation claimed ¹⁴	Budget remaining
2010-11	£19900	£4850	£24750	£17754	£6995.56
2011-12	£19900	£4850	£24750	£24672	£78.31
2012-13	£20000	£4850	£24850	£29262	-£4411.62
2013-14	£20100	£4850	£24950	£27587	-£2637.46
2014-15	£20600	£4850	£25450	£28467	-£3016.58
2015-16	£20600	£4850	£25450	£26968	-£1517.54

¹³ Information correct as at the date the investigation was opened.

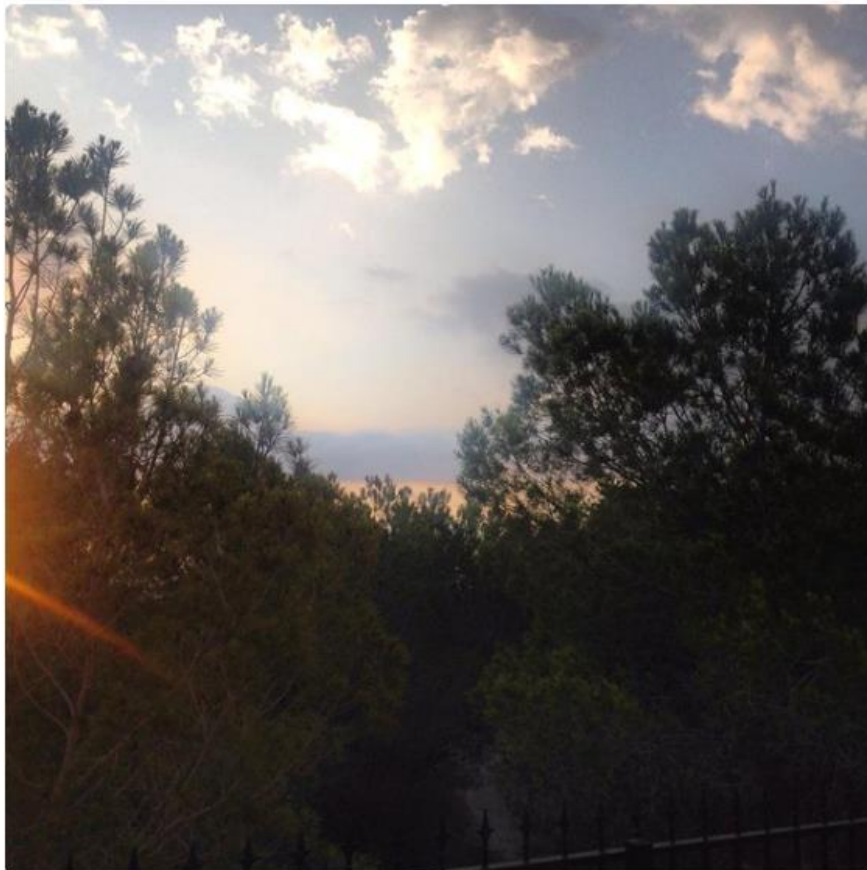
¹⁴ Information correct as at the date the investigation was opened.



Simon Danczuk ✓
@SimonDanczuk

Follow

View from my Spanish gaff this morning.
Lovely, but can't wait to be back in Rochdale
this afternoon.



RETWEET
1

LIKES
5



11:37 PM - 31 Jul 2015





HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Peter Davis
Compliance Officer
IPSA
4th Floor
30 Millbank
London
SW1P 4DU

Your ref: COM-1066

Dear Mr Davis

Further to your letter on February 23, 2016: I have consulted my diary and travel itinerary and it appears that I was in Spain from Sunday July 26 until Saturday August 1, 2015. According to my calculations, the value for car parking I am therefore required to repay is £96.50.

I would however make an important point: The alternative to leaving my car parked in Manchester for that week would have been to travel by train from London in order to move the vehicle.

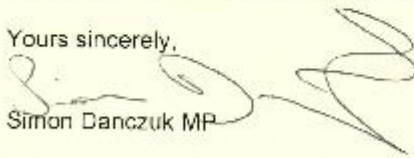
By doing so, I could have *legitimately* claimed up to £187.80 for the train journey. This represents a significantly greater expense to the taxpayer than £96.50 worth of parking.

However, in order to save IPSA money and make more effective use of my time I opted to fly directly from London and leave my car where it was. By choosing to do this, I have essentially paid for my own return travel to Rochdale.

I would add, as I have mentioned to IPSA on previous occasions, that a taxi from Rochdale to Manchester Piccadilly is £16 (£32 return), significantly cheaper than a week's long term parking. Regrettably, I have been consistently told that taxi travel is not permitted under IPSA rules.

I would suggest a change to the inflexible IPSA regulations in this area is long overdue. If an MP can find a more cost effective means of transport, then surely it is in the best interest of the taxpayer for IPSA to allow the claim.

Yours sincerely,


Simon Danczuk MP

Simon Danczuk MP, 26 St Mary's Gate, Rochdale, OL16 1DZ
Telephone: 01706 760136
Email: simon.danczuk.mp@parliament.uk



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Peter Davies
Compliance Officer
IPSA
4th Floor
30 Millbank
SW1P 4DU

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your Statement of Provisional Findings and I wish to make the following points in response.

First, I do not agree with your point in the conclusions that "there was no reasonable prospect of the children staying at the accommodation." I can understand you reaching that conclusion if you spoke with my first wife. I would expect her to give you a very unsympathetic view of my relationship with my two oldest children. However, I maintain that I continually wished for my oldest children to come and stay with me and I always thought that matters could be resolved to a point where they would come and stay.

Second, I readily admit that I did not read the rules. I relied on a member of staff to describe the rules to me at the time. I should have paid much more attention to the issue.

Third, I thought the rules were that if I had a child who was dependent upon me, as my oldest children were because of the levels of maintenance I was paying, then I was able to claim the uplift. This is obviously not the case.

I would also make the point that I have not personally received any of the money from the uplift, it has all gone to my landlord.

Finally, I do not require a meeting with you to discuss this matter further and I am happy to pay the outstanding money back, as you have suggested.

Simon Danczuk MP, 26 St Mary's Gate, Rochdale, OL16 1DZ
Telephone: 01706 750135
Email: simon.danczuk.mp@parliament.uk

Thank you for the professional way you have gone about your investigation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Danczuk', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Danczuk
Rochdale's Member of Parliament

Simon Danczuk MP, 25 St Mary's Gate, Rochdale, OL18 1DZ
Telephone: 01706 750135
Email: simon.danczuk.mp@parliament.uk