

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

November 2022

*Dear Constituents*

Thank you for your email about MPs and Christmas parties.

The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) regulates and administers the business costs of MPs and their staff. It is an independent body, and neither Parliament nor the Government has any direct involvement in these types of arrangements for MPs.

IPSA recently provided guidance on the existing rules relating to the use of expenses ahead of the Christmas period. I am aware that a number of my parliamentary colleagues have since made clear that they do not intend to make such claims and I will also not be making a claim as I do not believe the use of taxpayers' money in this way would be appropriate. I welcome IPSA's recent statement on this issue saying: "We got the messaging wrong by allowing the impression to form that this is what MPs were wanting to do, rather than our interpretation of the discretion available under the existing rules. We are an independent body and we make our own decisions but occasionally, like everyone, we make mistakes."

Finally, I agree with the Prime Minister that should MPs make a claim, they will need to justify all spending to their constituents. I welcome his confirmation that he does not intend to claim expenses for any Christmas events he may be holding, nor indeed, do I.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again. If you would like to keep up to date with my activities as your Member of Parliament then please subscribe to my Darlington Matters newsletter using this link: [www.petergibson.org/signup](http://www.petergibson.org/signup)

*Yours sincerely  
Peter Gibson*

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***Member of Parliament for Darlington***

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