Assurance Review 2026/007

Ms Ged Kearney MP – work expenses

1 January 2024 to 9 October 2025

Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

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Ms Ged Kearney MP – work expenses

Executive summary

1. The Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) conducted an assurance review of Ms Ged Kearney's use of work expenses in her office from 1 January 2024 to 9 October 2025 (period in scope).

Scope

2. The scope of this assurance review is work expenses used in Ms Kearney's office between 1 January 2024 to 9 October 2025.
3. The purpose of the assurance review was to determine whether the work expenses were used in accordance with the legislative framework.

Reason for Review

4. On 20 March 2026, IPEA commenced an assurance review of Ms Kearney's use of work expenses.

Outcome*

5. IPEA found that the use of work expenses was consistent with the legislative framework.

Potential outcomes

There are three potential outcomes of an assurance review:

1. Consistent with the framework (rules)
IPEA finds that the use of the relevant travel resource complied with the law.
This means the available evidence, including information provided by the member, clearly shows that all obligations under the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* were met.

2. Not inconsistent with the framework (rules)
IPEA finds that the use of the relevant travel resource was not shown to be against the law.
This means IPEA has accepted the member's explanation that they met their obligations under the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*, and IPEA has not found any evidence to the contrary.

3. Not consistent with the framework (rules)
IPEA finds that the use of the relevant travel resource did not comply with the law.
This means there has been a misuse of a parliamentary work resource under the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017*. Where misuse is found, the value of the resource will be recovered, including any applicable penalty.

IPEA's statutory audit function

6. IPEA audits parliamentarians' use of parliamentary business work resources and the use of travel resources by their staff under section 12 of the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority Act 2017 (IPEA Act). IPEA conducts assurance reviews to assess the use of resources against the legislative framework to determine if there has been misuse.

Legislative framework

7. The obligations that apply to parliamentarians using public resources for conducting their parliamentary business are set out in sections 25 to 28 of the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* (the PBR Act).
8. Section 6 of the PBR Act provides the following meaning of **parliamentary business**:

   The parliamentary business of a member means any of the following:
   (a) the ***parliamentary duties*** of a member, being activities of the member that:
      i. relate directly to the member's role as a member; and
      ii. are determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(a);
   (b) the ***electorate duties*** of the member, being activities of the member that:
      i. support or serve the member's constituents; and
      ii. are determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(b);
   (c) the ***party political duties*** of the member, being activities determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(c);
   (d) for a member who is an office holder or a Minister of State – the ***official duties*** of the member being activities that:
      i. relate to the member's role as an office holder or Minister of State; and
      ii. are determined for the purposes of paragraph (4)(d).

9. Subsection 6(4) of the PBR Act provides that the Minister must determine activities of a member that are parliamentary duties of the member, or electorate duties of the member, or party political duties of the member, or official duties of the member. The Parliamentary Business Resources (Parliamentary Business) Determination 2017 determines the activities which fall within the four duty streams set out in section 6 of the PBR Act.

Review process

10. On 20 March 2026, IPEA wrote to Ms Kearney asking her to provide IPEA with her assurance that between 1 January 2024 and 9 October 2025 all work expenses used in her office were used for the dominant purpose of her parliamentary business having regard to the definition in the Determination. This included all office equipment and stationery, including paper. A response was requested by 10 April 2026.
11. IPEA engaged with Ms Kearney on a number of occasions in relation to the assurance review (**Attachments 2 and 3**).
12. On 20 May 2026 Ms Kearney provided her response (**Attachment 4**). In her response she advised that between 1 January 2024 and 9 October 2025 all work expenses used in her office were used for the dominant purpose of her parliamentary business.

Conclusion

13. Based on the information made available by Ms Kearney, IPEA found that the use of work resources was consistent with the legislative framework.