

## **Opening Statement**

Thank you, Chair, for allowing me to make an opening statement this evening.

In December, the Prime Minister sought advice from the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) on parliamentarians' travel expenses.

Following receipt and consideration of that advice, the Minister for Finance and I wrote to the independent Remuneration Tribunal, the body responsible for determining parliamentarian remuneration and related expenses.

The Remuneration Tribunal considered the matters put to them and responded to Government in January.

This response was published as a statement available publicly on the Tribunal's website.

The Government accepted these changes in principle and requested the Department of Finance draft the necessary changes to the Parliamentary Business Resources Regulations.

The Department of Finance is working closely with the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority on drafting and implementation considerations.

It is my intention to implement any required changes with an operational date of 1 July 2026, allowing for appropriate drafting and consultation across the Parliament.