

# Communications Consumer Panel

## Financial Resources: Budget and Spend 2009/10

Under Section 16(1) of the Communications Act 2003, Ofcom has a duty to maintain effective arrangements for consultation about the carrying on of their functions with consumers. The arrangements must include the maintenance of a panel of persons - referred to in the Act as "the Consumer Panel". Ofcom agrees a budget for members' remuneration, expenses and any work we commission. Neither Ofcom nor Ofcom's Accountable Officer approves the expenditure met within that overall provision. Our budget for the 12 months ending 31 March 2010 was £744,700 and our non-audited expenditure for this period was £704,540 - see the table below. In the table we have included the cost of the Panel's Advisory Team (colleagues).

	Budget April 09-March 10 (12 months) £	Actual April 09-March 10 (12 months) £
Panel Member Fees (1)	168,300	134,385
Panel Member Expenses (2)	38,950	27,533
Panel Advisory Team (3)	240,650	234,671
Other (inc research, consultancy, stakeholder relationships and design and publications) (4)	296,800	307,951
Total (5)	744,700	704,540

### Notes

1. Panel members were paid flat fees.

- The Chair Anna Bradley, whose commitment is up to 6 days a month, received £30,900.
- Panel Members: five members with a time commitment of up to 4 days a month and a fee of £13,046 per annum; one with a time commitment of up to 3 days a month and a fee of £9,785 per annum; and three with a time commitment of up to 2 days a month and a fee of £6,523 per annum.

- The figure for fees includes employer's National Insurance.
2. Expenses cover travel and subsistence and learning and development. All monthly Panel meetings were held at Ofcom's office in London. This required overnight stays and travel from Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland for some members. Spend on expenses (£27.5k) was less than budget (£39k) and less than spend in 2008-09 (£34.6), despite the Panel have full membership for the whole year.
  3. The Panel is supported by an Advisory Team with the equivalent of 4.2 full-time Ofcom colleagues. The Advisory Team was reorganised during the year. For six weeks in July the Team was joined by a full-time secondee from Baker & McKenzie. Since December 2009 the team has also included additional part-time administrative support on secondment from Ofcom, which is the equivalent of 0.6 of a full-time colleague. Figures include salaries, employer's National Insurance, pension contributions and learning and development costs.
  4. The Panel commissioned a number of pieces of work during the year and commissioned a part-time contracted press/media adviser. Commissioned work includes:
    - Digital Participation research and review of existing evidence;
    - Mobile Coverage Research with consumers and small businesses; and
    - Usability of mobile phones (part completed).
  5. In total the Panel under spent its budget by £40k, which came from Member fees and expenses.