

UK Parliamentary by-elections in Great Britain | Electoral Commission    Search

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Guidance and resources Candidates and agents standing at Parliamentary by-elections in the UK have to follow rules set out in law regarding their election spending, and the donations and loans they can accept towards campaigning. This page contains all the guidance and resources that you need to comply with those rules if you are a candidate or agent in a UK Parliamentary by-election in Great Britain. Click here to view guidance on standing at a UK Parliamentary by-election in Northern Ireland An overview document gives instructions on how to use this guidance and who does what at these elections. Read the overview (PDF) We have produced a generic timetable for a UK Parliamentary by-election (DOC) which includes the statutory deadlines. You can obtain a copy of a specific by-election timetable from the Returning Officer.

Notional spending update Elections Act Under the Elections Act 2022, two changes have been made to the legislation on candidate spending rules: Definition of 'use on behalf a candidate' in notional spending Making payments for local campaigning The changes came into force on 24 November 2022. We have updated our Part 3 guidance to reflect the change.

Part 1 Can you stand for election? This part covers:

Qualifications for standing for election Disqualifications from standing for election

Part 1: Can you stand for election? (PDF) Click here to view resources for Part 1:

Can you stand for election? List of Commonwealth countries (DOC) Part 2a Standing as an independent candidate This part covers: Completing and submitting your nomination papers What happens after the close of nominations? Appointing your election agent and other agents What happens if a candidate dies? Part 2a: Standing as an independent candidate (PDF) Click here to view resources for Part 2a: Standing as an independent candidate

Nomination pack - UK Parliamentary general election (DOC) Withdrawal form - must be printed off (DOC) Polling agent appointment form (DOC) Postal voting agent appointment form (DOC) Counting agent appointment form (DOC) Part 2b Standing as a party candidate This part covers: Completing and submitting your nomination papers What happens after the close of nominations Appointing your election agent and other agents What happens if a candidate dies? Part 2b: Standing as a party candidate (PDF) Click here to view resources for Part 2b: Standing as a party candidate

Nomination pack - UK Parliamentary general election (DOC) Withdrawal form - must be printed off (DOC) Polling agent appointment form (DOC) Postal voting agent appointment form (DOC) Counting agent appointment form (DOC) Part 3 Spending and donations This part covers: How much you can spend The activities covered by the rules Which donations you can accept How to check donations you receive What information needs to be recorded and reported UK Parliamentary by-election Part 3

Spending and donations Click here to view resources for Part 3: Spending and donations UK Parliamentary by-election candidate spending return (Excel) Candidate spending return: Explanatory notes Declaration UK Parliament candidate Declaration UK Parliament agent Candidate imprints factsheet: UK Parliamentary elections, and elections in England Wales and Northern Ireland Non party campaigner s75 spending return (PDF) Non party campaigner s75 declaration (PDF) Part 4 The campaign This part covers: Campaigning dos and don'ts Using the electoral register and absent voters' lists Using schools and rooms for public meetings Freepost Imprints on campaign publicity material Polling day dos and don'ts Reporting allegations of electoral malpractice Part 4: The campaign (PDF) Click here to view resources for Part 4: The campaign

Register request form (DOC) Absent voters' list request form (DOC) Tellers' dos and don'ts (PDF) Code of conduct for campaigners - reserved elections in GB from January 2023 Secrecy requirements - the poll (DOC) Secrecy requirements - postal

voting (DOC) Secrecy requirements - verification and count (DOC) Candidate imprints factsheet: UK Parliamentary elections, and elections in England Wales and Northern Ireland Part 5 Your right to attend key electoral events This part covers: Attending the opening of postal votes and what to expect Attending polling stations and what to expect Attending the count and what to expect Part 5: Your right to attend key electoral events (PDF) [Click here to view resources for Part 5: Your right to attend key electoral events](#) Polling agent appointment form (DOC) Postal voting agent appointment form (DOC) Counting agent appointment form (DOC) Secrecy requirements - the poll (DOC) Secrecy requirements - postal voting (DOC) Secrecy requirements - verification and count (DOC) Tellers' dos and don'ts (PDF) Tellers guidance Part 6 After the declaration of results This part covers: Parliamentary oath of office or affirmation Return of the deposit Access to election paperwork Submitting your spending returns and declarations Questioning the result through an election petition Part 6: After the declaration of results (PDF)