

Party details | Electoral Commission

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Party details Under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

(PPERA), you must provide certain details as part of your application to register a

political party. This includes: The party's headquarters (or correspondence address)

Whether you do not wish to field candidates at UK Parliamentary general elections –

this will impact on which financial returns you may have to submit to the Commission

ahead of those elections. You must provide your party's headquarters address. If you

do not have a party headquarters, you must provide an address where the party can

receive correspondence. This must be a physical address, and not an email address. It

is important to note that this address will be available on our public register. You

should avoid using any home addresses if you do not want them to be publicly

available. You may therefore wish to consider using a PO Box address instead of a

home address. You should also provide the Commission with your email address and a

contact number to enable us to be able to contact with you about important

information about your application and in future about important statutory deadlines.

Making changes If later your party is registered and wishes to change any of its

registered details, you can make an application to amend your register entry at any

time. Last updated: 24 November 2022 Book traversal links for Party details What you

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Before you register Before you register, you need to set up your political party. You

should make sure you have a constitution , and that your financial processes are in

place. You also need to think about where your party intends to stand candidates.

This will affect which register you will need to apply to be included on. Your

intention to stand candidates Your party must intend to field at least one candidate

in at least one election in the UK. If you intend to contest elections in both Great

Britain and Northern Ireland, you will need to register two separate political

parties, one on each register. They are two separate parties for the purposes of the

Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). You can register

parties on both registers in a single application. You must ensure the financial

affairs of both parties are conducted separately and this must also be reflected in

each party's financial scheme. The reason the registered parties must be legally

separate is that your NI and GB parties will have separate financial reporting

requirements. If you register on the GB register, you must specify if you wish to

contest elections in England, Scotland and/or Wales. Please remember you will only be

able to field candidates as a party in those parts of the UK your register entry

specifies. As part of the application process we may ask you what the party has done

or will do to realise its intention to contest elections. One way of doing this is to

outline what specific elections your party intends to contest in your party's

constitution. Minor parties Minor parties can only register in Great Britain and must

also specify if they intend to field candidates at parish council elections, Welsh

community elections or both. Making changes If your party is registered and later

wishes to change where it intends to field candidates, you can make an application to

amend these details. An application to change your registration from a minor party to

a political party requires a £150 application fee. Last updated: 24 November 2022

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Your declaration of assets and liabilities | Electoral Commission

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Are you intending to contest UK Parliamentary general elections? | Electoral Commission

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After registration Once you have registered successfully we will send you information

about your obligations as a registered political party. Under the Political Parties,

Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA), a registered political party must, for

example: make sure all donations and loans over £500 come from mainly UK-based

sources report donations and loans every quarter, and report weekly during a UK

Parliamentary general election keep to campaign spending limits at elections, and

report campaign spending to us keep accurate accounts and records send us annual

accounts if the party's income or expenditure is over £250,000 a year, also send an

auditor's report on your annual accounts operate consistently with your constitution

and financial scheme, and keep them current keep the party's details up to date, and

confirm them annually These rules are to ensure the integrity and transparency of

party political finance. If you don't follow them, you may be subject to fines or

other enforcement action by us or the police. You have significant responsibilities

as an officer of a political party, so it's important that you understand these fully

before you register with us. You should make sure you familiarise yourself with the

guidance available for political parties on our website. In addition we also provide

guidance to candidates and agents on how to stand for election and their rights and

responsibilities. Last updated: 24 November 2022 Book traversal links for After

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How to register your political party This guidance tells you what you will need to know and do to register a political party or a minor party for the first time. We highly recommend you submit your application via our PEF Online system . We also have paper forms you can download from our website. The Electoral Commission maintains the registers of political parties for Great Britain and Northern Ireland. These are separate registers. Registered political parties and their officers must comply with the law, in particular as set out in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). These rules include continuous controls on donations, loans, campaign spending, annual accounts, keeping your registered details up to date and annual renewal of your registration. Before deciding to apply, it is important that you read all our published guidance on registering a political party and our guidance for party treasurers to get an understanding of the registration process and the financial reporting obligations. If you fail to comply with the law, you may be subject to civil or criminal sanctions. It is therefore an important part of the registration process that your party demonstrates that it has suitable arrangements and processes to enable the party to comply with the legal framework. In this guidance, we use 'must' when we refer to a specific legal or regulatory requirement. We use 'should' for items we consider to be minimum good practice, but which are not legal requirements. You do not have to follow this guidance, but if you do, you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Minor parties You can choose to register either a political party or a minor party. A political party can field candidates in all elections in the area they are registered - some or all parts of Great Britain, or in all of Northern Ireland. A minor party can only contest parish council elections in England and/or community council elections in Wales. Minor parties cannot contest elections in Scotland or Northern Ireland. Independent candidates at parish and community council elections can, at the discretion of the Returning Officer, use a description not registered with us provided that the description does not exceed six words in length and cannot be confused with a registered political party. Minor parties are not subject to the same financial reporting obligations that political parties are. Book traversal links for How to register your political party Before you register

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“Identity Marks” are how we refer collectively to your party name, descriptions and emblems. These are how a party may be identified on a ballot paper at elections. Some identity marks are mandatory whilst others are optional. You must register a party name. This is a mandatory identity mark. You may register up to three emblems and 12 descriptions. These are optional identity marks. You do not need to register any party identity marks that you intend to use on campaign materials, unless you also intend to use them on a ballot paper. There are certain statutory tests and requirements which identity marks must meet in order to be registered. We will assess your application to register identify marks against these tests. From time to time, the Commission will also carry out reviews of identity marks on our registers. This is part of our duty to ensure we are maintaining the register of political parties. You can apply to change your party name, descriptions, and emblems and add joint descriptions at a later date if you wish for an additional non-refundable fee of £25 per application.

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After registration Your party's officers Political parties must have people  
registered in certain official roles. These roles are: party leader party treasurer  
(not applicable for minor parties) nominating officer You must provide the names and  
home addresses for your officers. You do not need to have three separate individuals  
in each role, but you must have at least two people as officers for the party. If one  
person fills all of the official roles you must register someone as an additional  
officer. The additional officer must hold a specified office or role within the  
party. If your party has a campaigns officer then they may be registered as the  
additional officer. The treasurer and nominating officer cannot be the same person  
unless they are also the leader. Please be aware that these are statutory roles that  
carry legal responsibilities. Optional officer roles Campaigns officer – who will be  
responsible for your party's compliance with the financial laws for campaign  
expenditure instead of the treasurer. They cannot also be the treasurer Additional  
officer – you must apply to have an additional officer if the party leader is also  
the treasurer and nominating officer and your party does not have a campaigns  
officer. Minor parties If you are a minor party, you must register a party leader and  
nominating officer. You must have at least two people in officer roles. If one person  
fills both roles, you must register someone as an additional officer. Minor parties  
cannot be registered with a treasurer or campaigns officer. Last updated: 24 November  
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