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[updated: 2 February 2023](#) [Summary](#) From late 2022, the rules about candidate and agent

notional spending changed, as well as the rules about making payments. [Changes](#)

Notional spending occurs when services or goods are given to a candidate for free or

at a discount. The legal test for when candidates need to record notional spending

against their own spending limit has now changed. Someone will now only count as

using the item on the candidate's behalf if the candidate or their agent 'authorises,

directs or encourages' that use. This change also applies to notional expenditure on

behalf of parties, non-party campaigners, referendum campaigners and recall petition

campaigners. The rules for making payments for spending have also changed. Now, if

the agent has given written authorisation to someone to incur spending on behalf of

the candidate, then the person authorised to incur the spending is also able to make

the payment for that spending. [Our role](#) We have updated our generic guidance

documents on spending to reflect the new rules, and have published a specific page of

guidance on the changes . We will publish updated election-specific guidance for

candidates, parties and non-party campaigners as and when elections are held, to help

them understand and support compliance with the new legal requirements. [Related](#)

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voting and campaigning [About the Elections Act](#) about the [Elections Bill](#), including

the measures it contains and which elections it applies to. [Preventing candidate](#)

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non-party campaigners about proposals to change the law affecting parties and non-

party campaigners.