

Elections Act 2022: Code of Practice for non-party campaigners | Electoral Commission

Non-party campaigners: Where to start You are in the Non-party campaigners: Where to start section Home Non-party campaigners: Where to start View the navigation tree Go to main guidance section: Non-party campaigners: Where to start What are the rules for non-party campaigners? Elections Act 2022: Changes for non-party campaigners - overview Elections Act 2022: Code of Practice for non-party campaigners Elections Act 2022: New limits on campaigning by non-UK individuals and organisations Elections Act 2022: New notification threshold How to notify us to register as a non-party campaigner Elections Act 2022: Reporting threshold Elections Act 2022: Reporting at a UKPGE What spending is regulated? Does your campaign activity meet the purpose test? Purpose test: Intention Purpose test: Campaigning on an issue What happens if the policy I have been campaigning on is adopted by a political party? Purpose test: Charities and other organisations with limits on their political activities Purpose test: The regulated period in an early UK Parliamentary general election Staff costs and other overheads Joint campaigning Code of Practice The Elections Act also introduced a duty on the Electoral Commission to produce a statutory code for non-party campaigners at UKPGE and NI Assembly elections. We are committed to preparing a Code that reflects the law and is as clear and helpful as possible. The Code will explain the spending and donation controls that non-party campaigners must comply with. It also provides a new statutory defence for non-party campaigners who comply with the Code. The Code will be different from other types of guidance that we produce because it will be approved by the UK Parliament. On 24 November we will launch our consultation on the draft Code of Practice. The consultation will run for 8 weeks until 20 January 2023. Further information about our consultation can be found here . We aim to submit the final draft to the Minister in early March 2023 for their consideration. The Minister may amend the draft before it is laid in Parliament for approval. We will publish detailed guidance for non-party campaigners, that includes case studies and examples, to sit alongside the Code once it has been approved by the UK Parliament. We expect this to be in the summer of 2023. Last updated: 24 November 2022 Book traversal links for Elections Act 2022: Code of Practice for non-party campaigners Elections Act 2022: Changes for non-party campaigners - overview Elections Act 2022: New limits on campaigning by non-UK individuals and organisations

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Non-party campaigners: Council

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Non-party campaigners: Council elections in Scotland You are in the Non-party
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Council elections in Scotland View the navigation tree Go to main guidance section:
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Imprints Reporting If authorisation is given, the agent will need to include your
spending in the candidate spending return. You will need to give the agent the
necessary details for that spending to be included. If you spend more than the limit
you must also complete a spending return and declaration and deliver these to the
relevant Returning Officer within 21 days of the result being declared. You can find
contact details for the local elections office using our postcode lookup . Non party
campaigner s75A spending return (PDF) Non party campaigner s75A declaration (PDF)
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If authorisation is given, the agent will need to include your spending in the candidate spending return. You will need to give the agent the necessary details for that spending to be included. If you spend more than the limit you must also complete a spending return and declaration and deliver these to the relevant Returning Officer within 21 days of the result being declared. You can find contact details for the local elections office using our postcode lookup . Non party campaigner s75 spending return (PDF) Non party campaigner s75 declaration (PDF) Last updated: 8 December 2021

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What are non-party campaigners? | Electoral Commission

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[campaigners](#) are individuals or organisations that campaign in elections, but are not

standing as political parties or candidates. Non-party campaigners have to follow

certain rules in the run-up to elections. The types of non-party campaigns There are

two types of non-party campaigns. These are: [General campaigns](#) [Local campaigns](#)

[Campaigns for or against: one or more political parties](#) [parties or candidates that](#)

[support or do not support particular policies](#) [other categories of candidate](#) [Campaigns](#)

[for or against: one or more candidates in a particular constituency, ward or other](#)

[electoral area](#) You can find more information about the different types of campaigns

in our guidance [Non-party campaigners: Where to start](#) . The general campaign rules do

not apply at elections in England in May 2022. You therefore do not have to register

with us or report donations to us, and spending on activities directed only at your

members will still count towards your spending total. Last updated: 8 December 2021

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Elections Act 2022: New notification threshold | Electoral Commission

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Purpose test: Charities and other organisations with limits on their political activities | Electoral Commission Non-party campaigners: Where to start You are in the Non-party campaigners: Where to start section Home Non-party campaigners: Where to start View the navigation tree Go to main guidance section: Non-party campaigners: Where to start What are the rules for non-party campaigners? Elections Act 2022: Changes for non-party campaigners - overview Elections Act 2022: Code of Practice for non-party campaigners Elections Act 2022: New limits on campaigning by non-UK individuals and organisations Elections Act 2022: New notification threshold How to notify us to register as a non-party campaigner Elections Act 2022: Reporting threshold Elections Act 2022: Reporting at a UKPGE What spending is regulated? Does your campaign activity meet the purpose test? Purpose test: Intention Purpose test: Campaigning on an issue What happens if the policy I have been campaigning on is adopted by a political party? Purpose test: Charities and other organisations with limits on their political activities Purpose test: The regulated period in an early UK Parliamentary general election Staff costs and other overheads Joint campaigning Purpose test: Charities and other organisations with limits on their political activities Some organisations have restrictions on their political activities, for example in their constitution, or charities who are bound by charity law. These organisations may find that abiding by these separate restrictions means that they are less likely to carry out activities that meet the purpose test. This is because the restrictions mean that many of the sorts of campaigns that meet the purpose test are prohibited for those organisations. For example, charities must remain independent of party politics and must not support a political party or candidate, or create a perception of support as a result of their actions or participation. If you are a charity and abide by charity law and guidance from the relevant charity regulator, in most circumstances your campaign activity is unlikely to meet the purpose test. Part of UK Charity regulator Website link England and Wales Charity Commission for England and Wales Scotland OSCR Northern Ireland Charity Commission of Northern Ireland You will still need to be aware of the non-party campaigner rules in case your activities meet the purpose test. In some circumstances, charities can and do carry out campaign activity that is regulated under electoral law. In the recent past, for example the UK Parliamentary general elections in 2015 and 2017, charities have conducted campaigns that met the tests for regulated spending, and have registered with us in accordance with the rules. Our case studies from recent elections provide examples of issues-based campaigning that will be helpful when applying the purpose test to your own campaigns. If you are planning a campaign and you are still unsure how it fits in with the rules for non-party campaigners, please get in touch and we can provide advice. Last updated: 24 May 2021 Book traversal links for Purpose test: Charities and other organisations with limits on their political activities What happens if the policy I have been campaigning on is adopted by a political party? Purpose test: The regulated period in an early UK Parliamentary general election

Non-party campaigner Code of Practice | Electoral Commission Search

This version of the Code of Practice for non-party campaigners has been submitted for ministerial approval. [Close alert](#) [Non-party campaigner Code of Practice](#) Currently reading: of 9 - [Show page contents](#) [On this page](#) [About this Code](#) [What is a non-party campaigner?](#) [What is non-party campaigning?](#) [What type of spending is controlled expenditure?](#) [What is notional expenditure?](#) [What is joint campaigning?](#) [What is targeted expenditure?](#) [What are the donation controls?](#) [Annexes](#) [About this Code](#) [Background](#) This Code of Practice has been issued by the Secretary of State under section 100B of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 ('PPERA'). The draft Code was prepared by the Electoral Commission (the 'Commission') in accordance with sections 100A and 100B PERA following consultation with interested persons and bodies including the Speaker's Committee and the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee. The report on the consultation process can be found on the Commission's website. A draft was approved by the Secretary of State and laid before the UK Parliament in accordance with section 100B PERA. The Commission must have regard to this Code when exercising its functions under Part 6 PERA and may revise it from time to time in accordance with section 100A(3) PERA. Elections covered by this Code This Code applies to UK Parliamentary general elections (UKPGE) and Northern Ireland Assembly elections ¹. It does not apply to elections to the Senedd or Scottish Parliament unless the regulated period (the period when the spending laws apply) for either of those elections overlaps with the regulated period for a UKPGE (a 'combined regulated period'). Purpose of this Code This Code explains the operation of Part 6 PERA for third parties during the regulated period for a UKPGE or Northern Ireland Assembly election or a combined regulated period. The Commission and this Code calls third parties 'non party campaigners'. In particular, this Code sets out: what a non-party campaigner is what non-party campaigning is the kinds of expenses which are qualifying expenses the circumstances in which expenses are or are not to be regarded as incurred for the purpose of promoting or procuring electoral success the kinds of expenditure which will be dealt with as notional controlled expenditure or donations the circumstances which will be regarded as joint campaigning the operation of the rules on targeted controlled expenditure the recording and reporting requirements (including for combined regulated periods). This Code and other guidance published by the Commission This Code is statutory guidance. This Code is different from other types of guidance that the Commission publishes because it has been approved by Parliament. The Commission also publishes non-statutory guidance about expenses incurred by non-party campaigners and publishes up to date guidance about what elections are being held and which laws apply on its website. Where this Code or any related guidance says that something must be done, this means that it is a requirement in either primary or secondary legislation.

Offences and defence Section 100A(5) PERA provides a defence for a non-party campaigner charged with an offence under Part 6 PERA. It is a defence for a non-party campaigner to show that they complied with this Code in determining whether their campaign activity was regulated ². What are the consequences of breaching this Code? Breaches of the laws explained in this Code may lead to an offence being committed by the non-party campaigner, the responsible person or the individual spending the money. Committing an offence may result in a fine or prosecution. What is a non-party campaigner? Some individuals and organisations that are not registered political parties campaign for or against political parties or candidates or on issues around elections, without standing candidates themselves. In electoral law, these individuals and organisations are defined as third parties. The Commission

calls them non-party campaigners. There are laws that non-party campaigners must follow on campaign spending, donations, and reporting. Many individuals and organisations campaign in the run up to elections and meet the definition of a non-party campaigner but are not covered by the regulatory regime. Who is covered by the law The laws on spending and donations apply to non-party campaigners who spend more than £700 on regulated campaign activity. Non-party campaigners intending to spend more than £10,000 on regulated campaign activity must submit a notification to the Commission following which they will appear on the register of notifications 3 . Only certain types of entities can submit a notification to the Commission 4 . Registered non-party campaigners and the responsible person Once a non-party campaigner appears on the register of notifications, the Commission refers to them as a 'registered non-party campaigner'. When a non-party campaigner registers with the Commission, they must appoint a 'responsible person'. The responsible person is legally responsible for compliance with the laws in PPERA 5 . If an individual registers as a non-party campaigner, there is no need to appoint a responsible person as they are automatically the responsible person. Non-UK individuals and organisations Individuals and organisations that are not based in the UK or are not on a UK electoral register are not permitted to spend more than £700 on regulated campaign activity 6 . A non-party campaigner can only spend more than £700 on regulated campaign activity if they are: listed in section 88(2) PPERA as eligible to give a notification to the Commission or an unincorporated association with the requisite UK connection 7 . An unincorporated association has 'the requisite UK connection' if it consists of two or more persons, all of whom are registered overseas electors 8 . For example, an unincorporated association formed of five individuals living outside the United Kingdom, all of whom are registered as overseas electors, would have 'the requisite UK connection'. The unincorporated association is permitted to spend more than £700 on regulated campaign activity. See section on notification and reporting requirements. If an additional individual joined the unincorporated association, and was not registered as an overseas elector, the unincorporated association would no longer have the requisite UK connection. The unincorporated association would not be permitted to spend more than £700 on regulated campaign activity. What is non-party campaigning? The non-party campaigning laws only apply to regulated campaign activity. Not all non-party campaign activities are regulated. Activities that may be regulated Spending on the following activities is regulated if (i) it occurs in relation to a general campaign during a regulated period and (ii) meets the purpose test: press conferences or other media events organised by the non-party campaigner transport in connection with publicising the campaign production or publication of campaign material which is made available to the public at large or any section of the public canvassing and market research seeking views or information from members of the public public rallies or other public events 9 . See section on 'the public' for the meaning of the public for the purpose of regulated campaign activities. Regulated period Spending by non-party campaigners is regulated in the period before a UKPGE and Northern Ireland Assembly elections. This is defined in PPERA as the 'regulated period. UK Parliamentary general elections The regulated period for non-party campaigners at a UKPGE is the 365 day period leading up to and including polling day 10 . An election to the UK Parliament may be called at any time during the maximum five-year Parliamentary term. Where the period of time between the announcement of an election and polling day is shorter than the length of the regulated period, the regulated period will still run for 365 days. The regulated period will be applied retrospectively and will cover a period before the election

was announced. Spending on campaign activities that take place during the retrospective regulated period, but prior to the announcement of an election, may be regulated. See section on the purpose test and the retrospective regulated period.

Where a second UKPGE is held within 365 days of the previous election, the second regulated period will start on the day after the first polling day and will run up to and including the second polling day 11 . Northern Ireland Assembly elections The regulated period for non-party campaigners at a Northern Ireland Assembly general election is the four months immediately before polling day. In the event of an extraordinary election, the regulated period starts on the day on which the extraordinary poll is announced 12 . Senedd and Scottish Parliamentary elections The regulated period for a Senedd or Scottish Parliamentary election may be relevant if it overlaps with the regulated period for a UKPGE. Where two or more regulated periods overlap, a combined regulated period applies to the relevant part of the UK.

Combined regulated periods This Code applies to combined regulated periods. Spending by non-party campaigners in the relevant part of the UK is regulated for the whole of the combined regulated period.

Purpose test Spending on campaign activities by non-party campaigners is only regulated if it can reasonably be regarded as intended to promote or procure the electoral success of: one or more political parties political parties or candidates who support or do not support particular policies or another particular category of candidates 13 by influencing voters at an upcoming relevant election to vote in a particular way. See definition of relevant elections in Annex B.

Whether an activity can reasonably be regarded as intending to influence voters to vote in a particular way is commonly known as the ‘purpose test’. The purpose test must be applied at the time, or in the event of a retrospective regulated period as if at the time, spending on the activity is incurred. If spending was incurred prior to the regulated period but the activity takes place during the regulated period, the purpose test must be applied at the time the activity takes place. While these are not set out in PPERA, there are a number of factors that can help to determine whether campaign activity can be reasonably regarded as intended to influence voters to vote in a particular way at an upcoming election. These are:

- Call to action
- Tone
- Context and timing

How a reasonable person would see the activity

No single factor on its own will determine whether or not a particular campaign activity meets the purpose test. Rather all of the relevant factors taken together will determine whether a campaign activity meets the purpose test. The Commission uses these factors when considering whether an activity meets the purpose test.

1. Call to action A campaign that involves a call to action to voters to vote in a particular way at an upcoming election is likely to be reasonably regarded as promoting electoral success for a particular party or category of candidates and so meets the purpose test. The call to action may be explicit, or implicit. A campaign that explicitly promotes particular parties or candidates, or implicitly promotes certain political parties or candidates over others, is likely to meet the purpose test. It is unlikely that a public campaign without an explicit or implicit call to action to voters will meet the purpose test.
2. Tone A campaign that is positive or negative towards a political party or parties, a category of candidates or a policy closely and publicly associated with a party or category of candidate is likely to be reasonably regarded as intending to influence voters to vote in a particular way and so meet the purpose test. A campaign that makes a voter think of a particular political party or category of candidates is likely to be regarded as intended to influence voters to vote in a particular way and so meets the purpose test.
3. Context and timing A campaign on an issue or policy that is a prominent issue at the time the campaign activity takes

place, that also meets the other factors, is likely to be reasonably regarded as promoting the electoral success of a particular party or category of candidates and so meet the purpose test. A campaign that starts close to the date of an election and also meets the other factors, is more likely to be reasonably regarded as intending to influence voters to vote in a particular way at the upcoming election. An ongoing campaign is unlikely to be reasonably regarded as intending to influence voters to vote in a particular way at the election.

4. How a reasonable person would see the activity

Campaign activity will only meet the purpose test if a reasonable person would regard the activity as intending to influence voters to vote in a particular way at an upcoming election.

Multi-purpose campaigns

An activity that meets the purpose test, may have other aims as well as being 'reasonably regarded as intended to influence how people vote'. It is immaterial whether an activity can reasonably be regarded as intended to achieve another purpose or purposes if it can also be reasonably regarded as intending to influence voters to vote in a particular way 14 .

For example, a campaign activity is intended to achieve two purposes, purpose X and purpose Y. If purpose X meets the purpose test, it is irrelevant that purpose Y does not also meet the purpose test.

Retrospective regulated period

Where a regulated period is applied retrospectively, any pre-announcement activity will only be regulated if, at the time it was carried out, it could reasonably be regarded as intending to influence voters to vote in a particular way at a relevant election 15 .

See definition of relevant election in Annex B. If there are no upcoming relevant elections, an ongoing campaign on a particular issue is unlikely to be reasonably regarded as intending to influence voters to vote in a particular way. A campaign activity that is focused on an issue rather than on how a voter should vote, is unlikely to meet the purpose test if there are no upcoming relevant elections.

Campaign activity will only be regulated as a result of a retrospective regulated period in either of the following circumstances:

Campaign activity that meets the purpose test in any relevant election that is taking place at the time of the activity, even if it is not a UK Parliamentary election or a Northern Ireland Assembly election, will be regulated if a retrospective regulated period is applied.

An activity that is campaigning for the next election, regardless of what election that is, and meets the purpose test, will be regulated if a retrospective regulated period is applied. See section on campaign activity before an election is announced.

Meaning of 'the public'

The meaning of 'the public' will need to be considered in relation to the following campaign activities when determining whether spending on the activity is regulated: canvassing and market research of the public public rallies and events the production or publication of material

'The public' has no statutory definition and therefore needs to be considered in its ordinary meaning.

Canvassing and market research

Canvassing and market research that meets the purpose test and take place during a regulated period will only be regulated campaign activity if it seeks the views of or information from the general public.

Rallies and events

Rallies and events that meet the purpose test and take place during a regulated period will only be regulated campaign activity if they are open for anyone to hear, see or attend. Where access to the rally or public event is limited by the non-party campaigner so that the general public are unable to take part, this will not be regulated.

The production or publication of material

Campaign material will only be regulated campaign activity if the material is made available to the public or any section of the public by the non-party campaigner. Whether the material is publicly available is determined by who has access to that material:

Campaign material that is made available to the public or a section of the public

Campaign

material that is made available for the public or a section of the public to hear or see will be public and will be regulated campaign activity if it also meets the purpose test and takes place during a regulated period. This applies regardless of the means by which the material is distributed. Campaign material that is only made available to people who have chosen to receive the information Campaign material that is only made available by the non-party campaigner to a closed group of members or people who have chosen to receive the information, will not be regulated. Where access to campaign material is limited in such a way that the public would not be able to access that material, this is not regulated campaign activity. This applies regardless of the means by which the material is distributed, for example by print or digitally. Where access to campaign material is restricted by the non-party campaigner to a group of people who have signed up to receive that material, those activities will not be regulated. For example, where access is restricted to members, or supporters, this will not be regulated. What are the notification and reporting requirements? Notification threshold Non-party campaigners intending to spend more than £10,000 on regulated campaign activity in the period before a UKPGE or a Northern Ireland Assembly election must submit a notification to the Commission 16 . The Commission calls this the 'notification threshold'. Eligible non-party campaigners Only individuals or organisations described in s.88(2) PPERA are eligible to submit a notification to the Commission. Organisations are prohibited from registering as both a non-party campaigner and a political party 17 . Non-party campaigners are not permitted to spend more than £700 on regulated campaign activity unless they are: eligible to give a notification to the Commission by virtue of s.88(2) PPERA, or an unincorporated association with the requisite UK connection 18 . An unincorporated association has 'the requisite UK connection' if it consists of two or more persons, all of whom are registered overseas electors 19 . See section on non-UK individuals and organisations. A non-party campaigner that is permitted to spend more than £700 on regulated campaign activity may spend up to £10,000 across the UK without notifying the Commission 20 . Before spending more than £10,000 on regulated campaign activity across the UK, a non-party campaigner must submit a notification to the Commission 21 . An unincorporated association with the requisite UK connection is not eligible to submit a notification to the Commission and so is not permitted to spend more than £10,000. Non-party campaigners taking part in a joint campaign may meet the notification threshold as a result of the rules on joint campaigning, without incurring spending directly themselves. See section on joint campaigning. Reporting thresholds Registered non-party campaigners who spend more than: £20,000 in England, or £10,000 in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland must record and report their spending and donations 22 . These are known as the reporting thresholds. They are defined as the 'lower tier spending limits' in PPERA 23 . Notifying the Commission All non-party campaigners who submit a notification to the Commission are subject to the reporting requirements when their spending meets the reporting thresholds. Non-party campaigners that meet the notification threshold but do not intend to spend more than the reporting thresholds, may, at the time of notification, submit a declaration to that effect 24 . If no statement is made by the non-party campaigner at the time of notification, the non-party campaigner will be subject to the reporting requirements if they meet the reporting thresholds 25 . Non-party campaigners taking part in a joint campaign may meet the reporting thresholds as a result of the rules on joint campaigning, without incurring spending directly themselves. See section on joint campaigning. Non-party campaigners that are not subject to the reporting requirements Registered non-party campaigners who include a

declaration that they do not intend to spend more than the reporting thresholds are not required to report their spending or donations as long as their spending does not exceed the reporting thresholds. They are still subject to the law on permissibility of donations. Once a non-party campaigner is registered, they may withdraw their statement that they do not intend to spend more than the reporting thresholds if their spending intentions change following registration 26 . It is an offence to incur controlled expenditure in excess of the reporting thresholds if the non-party campaigner has notified the Commission that they would not spend more than those limits 27 . Any non-party campaigner doing so would also become subject to the reporting requirements 28 .

Maximum spending limit for non-party campaigners There are spending limits that restrict the total amount a non-party campaigner can spend on regulated campaign activity during a regulated period. These spending limits vary depending on the particular election and are set out in Schedule 10 PPERA.

Reporting requirements All registered non-party campaigners must comply with the laws on spending and accepting donations. Only registered non-party campaigners who meet the reporting thresholds must report their spending and donations.

Spending up to £250,000 Registered non-party campaigners who meet the reporting thresholds and who spend up to £250,000 must submit a spending return that details their spending on regulated campaign activity and any donations received for the purpose of meeting spending on regulated campaign activity 29 . The spending return must be submitted to the Commission within three months of the end of the relevant regulated period.

More than £250,000 Registered non-party campaigners who spend more than £250,000 on regulated campaign activity must submit a spending return that details their spending on regulated campaign activity and any donations received for the purpose of meeting spending on regulated campaign activity. In addition, the spending return must be accompanied by an auditors' report 30 . The spending return accompanied by an auditors' report must be submitted to the Commission within six months of the end of the relevant regulated period.

Reporting donations Registered non-party campaigners who are required to submit a spending return must include any donations received for the purpose of meeting spending on regulated campaign activity 31 . See section on donations.

UK parliamentary general elections When a UK parliamentary term reaches its fourth anniversary, registered non-party campaigners who meet the reporting threshold, must submit quarterly donation reports to the Commission 32 . The quarterly report must include details of all reportable donations. If a non-party campaigner has not received any reportable donations during the relevant reporting period, no quarterly report is required 33 .

In the period between the dissolution of Parliament for a general election and polling day, registered non-party campaigners must also submit weekly donation reports to the Commission 34 . The weekly donation report must include details of any relevant donations received with a value of more than £7,500 (a 'substantial donation') 35 . If a registered non-party campaigner does not receive any substantial donations during the relevant reporting period, no weekly report is required 36 . Weekly reports are not required by registered non-party campaigners who do not meet the reporting threshold.

Statement of accounts A registered non-party campaigner who meets the reporting threshold at a UKPGE, must prepare a statement of accounts for the regulated period unless: the non-party campaigner is an individual the non-party campaigner has prepared a statement of accounts for another legal purpose that covers the regulated period 37

What type of spending is controlled expenditure? Controlled expenditure is any spending incurred in respect of regulated campaign activity. Schedule 8A PPERA sets out the list of qualifying expenses that fall within the regulatory regime.

General guidance Campaign

activity before an election is announced An ongoing campaign on a particular issue that was carried out before an election was announced is unlikely to be reasonably regarded as intending to influence voters to vote in a particular way at an upcoming election if there is no upcoming election. If an ongoing campaign continues unchanged once the election is announced, it is unlikely to be considered regulated campaign activity. If activity around an ongoing campaign increases or is altered in the run up to an election in a way that means the activity meets the purpose test, i.e. the activity could now be reasonably regarded as intending to influence voters to vote in a particular way, it may be considered regulated campaign activity. From the point the campaign is considered regulated campaign activity, only the costs associated with that campaign are likely to be controlled expenditure and must be treated as such. A campaign may still be considered regulated campaign activity where it is intended to achieve another purpose other than influencing voters if the campaign can be reasonably regarded as intending to influence voters to vote in a particular way at an upcoming election. Re-using items paid for and used at a previous election Non-party campaigners may re-use items from previous elections. Spending on items that were paid for and used at a previous election and were reported in full in a previous spending return do not need to be reported again in the spending return for the same non-party campaigner at the current election if they are used again without alteration. All new costs relating to their re-use, including storage, cleaning, or the cost of altering the items must appear in the spending return. Apportionment of items for subsequent elections Items that have been paid for and used during a regulated period cannot be apportioned or reported solely on the basis that they will be used again during a subsequent regulated period. The full value of the spending must be reported in the spending return. Unused items Items that have been paid for by a non-party campaigner, but have not been used during the regulated period, do not need to be reported in the spending return. If those items are then used at a future election, the spending would need to be reported in relation to that election, as an item paid for prior to the commencement of the regulated period. Items paid for prior to the commencement of the regulated period Where spending was incurred prior to the start of a regulated period on items that are used during the regulated period, the spending on those items must be reported in the spending return 38 . Items provided free of charge or at a discount Where any items are provided free of charge or at a discount, the appropriate amount must be reported in the spending return as notional spending and/or a donation. See definition of appropriate amount in Annex B. Apportioning spending Where spending on an item or activity was incurred partly in connection with regulated campaign activity and partly in connection with non-regulated activity, the amount that must be reported is the proportion that reasonably reflects the amount spent in connection with the regulated campaign activity. Only the regulated campaign spending must be reported in the spending return. VAT Spending must be reported inclusive of VAT where applicable, even where VAT can be recovered. Overheads Overheads that are directly attributable to regulated campaign activity must be reported. The amount that must be included in the spending return is the proportion that reasonably reflects usage during the campaign. Where there is no increase in spending on overheads beyond the normal spending incurred by a campaigner, spending on overheads will not be regulated. Where there is an increase in the cost of overheads incurred by a campaigner as a result of regulated campaign activity, that increase in spending must be reported. The proportion that reasonably reflects usage is generally the cost that is incurred over and above the usual costs in a given period. Where an apportionment of overheads is necessary, an aggregated

figure for each overhead is sufficient to meet the reporting obligations. Overheads can include items such as: office space electricity bills the provision of phone lines and internet access mobile phones the provision of office equipment of any kind The cost of water, gas and council tax are not costs that need to be reported as they are not sufficiently closely connected to the regulated activity. Staff costs Staff costs that are directly attributable to regulated activity must be reported. Only staff costs that are incurred as a result of regulated campaign activity need to be reported. Where staff costs can only be partially attributed to regulated activity, the costs must be apportioned and only the portion attributed to regulated activity must be included in the spending return. Where an apportionment of a staff member's time is necessary, an aggregated figure for all staff time attributed to regulated activity is sufficient to meet the reporting obligations. The childcare costs of staff members are not expenses that need to be reported as they are not sufficiently closely connected to the regulated activity 39 .

Excluded items Any spending on campaign activity that needs to be reported in the spending return of a candidate or in the spending return of a registered political party, must not be reported in the spending return of a non-party campaigner. Schedule 8A Schedule 8A PPERA lists the qualifying expenses that fall within the regulatory regime. Expenses that fall within the regulatory regime PPERA specifically lists the following expenses as falling within the regulatory regime: the production or publication of material which is made available to the public at large or any section of the public (in whatever form and by whatever means) canvassing, or market research seeking views or information from, members of the public press conferences, or other media events, organised by or on behalf of the non-party campaigner transport (by any means) of persons to any place or places with a view to obtaining publicity expenses in respect of the transport of such persons include the costs of hiring a particular means of transport public rallies or other public events, other than: annual conferences of the non-party campaigner any public procession or protest meeting, within the meaning of the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, in respect of which notice is given in accordance with section 6 or 7 of that Act (advance notice of public processions or related protest meetings) Expenses in respect of such events include costs incurred in connection with the attendance of persons at such events, the hire of premises for the purposes of such events or the provision of goods, services or facilities at them. But expenses in respect of such events do not include costs incurred in providing for the protection of persons or property. Expenses that fall outside the regulatory regime PPERA specifically excludes the following expenses from the reporting requirements: expenses incurred in respect of the publication of any matter relating to an election, other than an advertisement: in a newspaper or periodical as a broadcast made by the British Broadcasting Corporation or by Sianel Pedwar Cymru or as a programme included in any service licensed under Part 1 or 3 of the Broadcasting Act 1990 or Part 1 or 2 of the Broadcasting Act 1996 expenses incurred in respect of, or in consequence of, the translation of anything from into Welsh or from Welsh into reasonable personal expenses incurred by an individual in travelling or in providing for the individual's accommodation or other personal needs reasonable expenses that are reasonably attributable to an individual's disability expenses incurred in respect of the provision of an individual's own services provided voluntarily in the individual's own time and free of charge 40 Annex A sets out a non-exhaustive list of the kinds of expenses that do, or do not, fall within the meaning of qualifying expenses. What is notional expenditure? Non-party campaigners may sometimes use property, services or facilities in their campaign that they did not have to spend

money on, because the item or the services were provided as a benefit in kind, for free, or at a non-commercial discount. This is known as 'notional spending'.

Discounts Non-commercial discounts Non-commercial discounts are special discounts given to the non-party campaigner. This includes any special rates which are not available on the open market. When this happens, the full commercial value of the item or the services will count towards the spending limit and must be reported in the spending return. Commercial discounts Commercial discounts are those available to other similar customers, such as discounts for bulk orders or seasonal reductions. These are not treated as notional spending.

Notional spending Items or services used by or on behalf of a non-party campaigner will be treated as notional spending if: the property, services or facilities are provided free of charge or at a discount of more than 10% of the commercial rate for the use or benefit of the non-party campaigner, or in the case of the transfer of property it is transferred free of charge or a discount of more than 10% of market value 41 the difference in value between what is provided and what is paid by the non-party campaigner is over £200 42 they are made use of by or on behalf of the non-party campaigner and if the expenses had been incurred by or on behalf of the non-party campaigner in respect of that use, they would have been controlled expenditure 43 . The items or services are only used on behalf of the non-party campaigner if that use is directed, authorised or encouraged by the non-party campaigner or the responsible person 44 . The value of the notional spending is the difference between the total value of what was transferred or provided and the amount that was paid, if anything. The non-party campaigner must record both: the value of the notional spending the total amount that was paid. Items or services will not be treated as notional spending if: received at a discount of 10% or less or the value of the discount is £200 or less. Value of notional spending Where an item is treated as notional spending, an 'appropriate amount' must be reported by the non-party campaigner as controlled expenditure. Where the notional spending is property transferred to the non-party campaigner, the appropriate amount is the proportion that is reasonably attributable to the use of the item, of either: its market value (where it is transferred free of charge) or the value of the discount 45 . Where the notional spending is property, services or facilities used by the non-party campaigner, the appropriate amount is the proportion that is reasonably attributable to the use of the item, of either: the commercial rate (where it is provided free of charge) or the difference in value between the commercial rate for an item or service and the price that was actually paid by the non-party campaigner 46 .

Donations The goods, services or facilities must be provided or transferred to the non-party campaigner to be treated as notional spending. This means that any notional spending will also be a donation to the non-party campaigner. The difference in value between the market value or commercial rate, and the price paid, if any, must be dealt with in accordance with the laws on donations to non-party campaigners and may need to be reported to the Commission.

Working with registered political parties Non-party campaigners may also work with a registered political party, and provide property, services or facilities free of charge or at a non-commercial discount. If the registered political party use the goods, services or facilities during their campaign, this must be treated as notional spending on behalf of the political party 47 . This will also be treated as a donation by the non-party campaigner to the political party 48 . It must be reported by the registered political party and will count towards the party's spending limit. It will not count towards the non-party campaigner's spending limit and must not be recorded in the spending return for the non-party campaigner. What is joint

campaigning? Working with other non-party campaigners Non-party campaigners may decide to work together on a campaign. Where the non-party campaigners work together on regulated campaign activity, the rules on joint campaigning may apply. The rules on joint campaigning apply to registered and un-registered non-party campaigners 49 . A non-party campaigner takes part in joint campaigning where the following circumstances are all present: they enter into a plan or other arrangement with one or more other non-party campaigners all non-party campaigners involved intend to incur controlled expenditure in pursuance of that plan or arrangement one or more of the non-party campaigners involved actually incurs controlled expenditure in pursuance of the plan or arrangement and that plan or arrangement can reasonably be regarded as intending to achieve a common purpose 50 . All of the spending on the joint campaign counts towards the spending limit of each of the non-party campaigners involved in the joint campaign. What is joint campaigning There must be more than one non-party campaigner An existing umbrella organisation that makes decisions about their campaign activity independently will not be joint campaigning unless they enter into a plan or arrangement with other non-party campaigners in which they all intend to incur controlled expenditure. A new organisation set up to carry out campaign activity that constitutes a group of other organisations and then spending money is not joint campaigning. There must be an agreed understanding that controlled expenditure will be incurred to achieve the common purpose If there is no intention to incur expenditure there is no joint campaigning. For example, if it is agreed that all activity will be carried out by volunteers no spending will be incurred and there will be no joint campaigning. There must be an agreed understanding as to the scope and purpose of the campaign Non-party campaigners who happen to campaign about similar or related issues are not joint campaigners. There must be an agreed understanding between the non-party campaigners that each of them will incur controlled expenditure to achieve the common purpose All controlled expenditure incurred in pursuance of the plan or arrangement will fall within the joint campaigning rules. Joint campaigning is not simply transferring or lending items to another campaigner or providing money to another campaigner This must be treated as notional spending or a donation and dealt with in accordance with the appropriate rules. Even if one of the non-party campaigners involved in the plan or arrangement does not incur their share of agreed expenditure, any expenditure incurred will still be joint campaigning and must be reported by all non-party campaigners involved. Any controlled expenditure incurred by a non-party campaigner that goes beyond or is incurred outside of the agreed plan or arrangement, is not part of the joint campaign but will still count towards the spending limit of the non-party campaigner incurring the expenditure. Only spending that was agreed as part of the joint campaign counts towards the spending limit of the other non-party campaigners involved in the joint plan. Examples of joint campaigning A and campaigner B agree to run a campaign encouraging voters to vote for candidates who support a particular issue. Both campaigner A and campaigner B intend to incur controlled expenditure as part of the campaign. A and campaigner B both incur expenditure on the joint campaign. This is joint campaigning, and the spending should be treated as such. A and campaigner B agree to run a campaign encouraging voters to vote for a particular political party. Both intend to incur controlled expenditure as part of the joint campaign. A incurs expenditure on the joint campaign, but campaigner B never spends their intended share. This is joint campaigning, and the spending should be treated as such by both campaigner A and campaigner B. A and campaigner B agree to run a campaign encouraging voters to vote for a particular political party. Both intend to incur

controlled expenditure as part of the joint campaign. Neither campaigner ends up incurring any controlled expenditure on the joint campaign. No joint campaigning has taken place. Activities that are joint campaigning Non-party campaigners who engage in the following, non-exhaustive list of activities are likely to be joint campaigners: A joint advertising campaign, whether digital, electronic or via other means, involving joint leaflets or joint events. A co-ordinated campaign; for example where it is agreed which areas are to be covered, which issues raised or which voters targeted. Joint working where one party can veto or must approve another party's material. Activities that are not joint campaigning Non-party campaigners who engage in the following, non-exhaustive list of activities are unlikely to be joint campaigners: Endorsing another campaign by allowing your logo/brand to be used without any financial commitment or further involvement. Adding your signature to a letter alongside other non-party campaigners without any financial commitment. Speaking freely at an event organised by another non-party campaigner without any financial commitment. Holding discussions about areas of common interest without coordinating campaign activity. Making a donation to another non-party campaigner is not joint campaigning. See sections on notional spending and donations. Reporting spending on a joint campaign Where there is a joint campaign, all of the spending on that joint campaign counts towards the spending limit of each of the non-party campaigners involved in the joint campaign. All non-party campaigners involved in the joint campaign that reach the reporting threshold must report all of the spending on the joint campaign unless one of the non-party campaigners agrees to be a lead campaigner. See section on notification and reporting requirements. Lead and minor campaigners Where there is a joint campaign, one of the registered non-party campaigners may agree to report all of the joint campaign spending by each of the non-party campaigners involved in the joint campaign. The registered non-party campaigner who agrees to report all of the joint campaign spending is known as the lead campaigner 51 . A non-party campaigner whose joint campaign spending is reported by a lead campaigner is known as a minor campaigner 52 . Where a group of campaigners jointly spend over the notification threshold but some of those campaigners do not reach the notification threshold, the lead/minor campaigner laws allow one campaigner, the lead campaigner, to submit a notification to the Commission and report all of the spending on the joint campaign. The minor campaigners do not have to submit a notification. Notification of lead campaigner status A non-party campaigner involved in a joint campaign who agrees to report all of the joint campaign spending must: notify the Commission that they are part of a joint campaign, and they will be the lead campaigner, and inform the Commission of the minor campaigners involved in the joint campaign. A non-party campaigner may notify the Commission of their lead campaigner status, or the involvement of minor campaigners, at any time before the end of the regulated period 53 . Reporting by the lead campaigner All spending on the joint campaign, whether by the lead campaigner or the minor campaigner(s) will count towards the lead campaigners spending limit during the regulated period 54 . The lead campaigner must report the spending on the joint campaign by themselves and by the minor campaigners in the spending return after the election, alongside any other campaign expenditure incurred by the lead campaigner separate to the joint campaign. Notification and reporting by the minor campaigner When the lead campaigner notifies the Commission of their lead campaigner status, they must inform the Commission of the minor campaigners involved in the joint campaign. For the purpose of determining whether a minor campaigner meets the notification or reporting threshold, spending on the joint campaign must not be

included when determining the limits if: the spending is part of a joint campaign that has been notified to the Commission (in which case the minor campaigners spending on the joint campaign will be treated as incurred by the lead campaigner and will count towards the lead campaigners spending limit), and the non-party campaigner is a minor campaigner at the time of incurring the spending, and the total amount of spending by the non-party campaigner, excluding any spending on the joint campaign, is less than the reporting thresholds 55 . See section on notification and reporting thresholds. What is targeted expenditure? Regulated campaign spending by all registered non-party campaigners during the regulated period for a UKPGE that is aimed at promoting the electoral success of one particular registered political party or any of its candidates is called targeted spending 56 . Spending on campaign activity will not be considered targeted spending unless the campaign identifies the political party or its candidates. Campaign activity that names a single political party or its candidates in a way that can be regarded as intended to influence voters to vote for only that political party or its candidates will count as targeted spending. Campaign activity that identifies a single political party or its candidates in such a way that it can be reasonably regarded as intended to influence voters to vote for only that political party or its candidates, will be considered targeted spending. This could be by using a campaign slogan, party logo, or a policy so synonymous with only one political party. A negative campaign aimed at influencing voters not to vote for a particular political party or any of its candidates is not targeted spending. Targeted spending will count towards the overall spending limit for a non-party campaigner and is subject to the general laws on regulated campaign activity. Donations to registered political parties Donations to a registered political party do not fall within the definition of targeted spending. Targeted spending limits All registered non-party campaigners are limited in how much targeted spending they can incur. The limits depend on whether or not the relevant political party has authorised the spending. Unauthorised spending Non-party campaigners can incur targeted spending up to the targeted spending limits without authorisation from the relevant political party. The targeted spending limits are set out in s.94D PPERA. All targeted spending counts towards the total spending limit for a non-party campaigner. Any spending in excess of the targeted spending limits must be authorised by the relevant registered political party. It is an offence for non-party campaigners to spend in excess of the targeted spending limit without authorisation from the relevant registered political party 57 . Authorised spending A registered political party may authorise a non-party campaigner to incur targeted spending. A non-party campaigner must not exceed the amount authorised. It is an offence for non-party campaigners to spend in excess of the amount authorised by the relevant registered political party 58 . Authorisation by a registered political party: must be in writing must be signed by either the treasurer or the deputy treasurer of the party must specify the parts of the UK in which the targeted spending may be incurred may set a limit on the amount of targeted spending authorised 59 . The registered political party must give a copy of the written authorisation to the Commission. The authorisation has no effect until a copy has been given to the Commission 60 . All targeted spending counts towards the total spending limit for a non-party campaigner whether the spending is authorised by the relevant registered party or not. Any targeted spending in excess of the targeted spending limit up to the amount authorised by the relevant political party will also count towards the registered political party's campaign expenditure 61 . Withdrawal of authorisation Authorisation may be withdrawn by the registered political party at any time. The withdrawal: must

be in writing must be signed by the treasurer or deputy treasurer of the party 62 . The withdrawal of authorisation has no effect until the registered political party has given a copy to the Commission 63 . Effect of withdrawal of authorisation A non-party campaigner must not incur any additional targeted spending above the targeted spending limit if the relevant political party withdraws its authorisation. When authorisation is withdrawn, no retrospective offence will have been committed by the non-party campaigner in relation to targeted spending incurred in accordance with the authorisation that was in effect at the time. Retrospective regulated period Where a retrospective regulated period is applied, non-party campaigners will only need to consider targeted spending where their campaign activity needs to be regulated because it met the purpose test at the time it took place. A non-party campaigner will only breach the laws on incurring targeted spending without authorisation if they knew or ought reasonably to have known that they would exceed the targeted spending limit without authorisation at the time the spending is incurred 64 . This is unlikely to happen in the case of a retrospective regulated period. What are the donation controls? All registered non-party campaigners must comply with the donation controls in Schedule 11 PPERA that set out who can donate to non-party campaigners. Registered non-party campaigners that do not meet the reporting threshold must check whether the donation is from a permissible source, but they are not subject to the donation reporting requirements. See section on reporting requirements. Donations covered by the laws The laws on donations only apply to donations that are given to registered non-party campaigners, specifically towards their spending on regulated campaign activity. The laws do not cover money that is received for the organisation's general purposes. For the purposes of donations to non-party campaigners, a donation is: money, goods, property or services 65 given for the purpose of regulated campaign activity 66 and without charge or on non-commercial terms and with a value of more than £500 67 . Anything with a value of £500 or less is not a donation for the purposes PPERA. Who can donate to a non-party campaigner Non-party campaigners can only accept donations from individuals or organisations that are based in the UK 68 . The list of permissible sources is set out in s.54(2) PPERA. Non-party campaigners must not accept donations from a registered political party 69 . Valuing non-monetary donations Non-party campaigners must put a value on any non-monetary donation. The value of a donation is the difference between the value of what is received, and the amount, if any, that the non-party campaigner pays for it 70 . Items that are received for free or at a non-commercial discount, where the difference in the commercial value and what was actually paid for it is more than £500, is a donation for the purposes of PPERA. Checks on donations When a non-party campaigner receives a donation of more than £500, they must promptly check whether the donation is from a permissible source. Where a donation is received via an agent, the non-party campaigner must be able to identify the identity of the true donor 71 . The agent must provide details of the true donor 72 . Donations from impermissible or unidentified donors must be returned within 30 days of receipt of the donation 73 . Non-party campaigners must keep records of the donations that are received, as well as donations that have been returned. These details must be included when the donation is reported to the Commission. Annex A This Annex sets out a non-exhaustive list of the kinds of expenses that do, or do not, fall within the meaning of 'qualifying expenses' in Schedule 8A PPERA (that may be regarded as 'controlled expenditure' within the meaning of section 85(2)). Expenses fall within the meaning of qualifying expenses if they are expenses incurred in respect of any of the matters set out in paragraph 1 of Schedule 8A. Schedule 8A, paragraph 1(1) 'The production or

publication of material which is made available to the public at large or any section of the public (in whatever form and by whatever means).' This paragraph includes: Services, equipment, facilities or premises provided by others This includes the cost of use, or hire, of any: agency, individual or organisation services provided by any agency, individual or organisation premises or facilities equipment that is used to: prepare, produce or publish material which is made available to the public at large or any section of the public For example, the hire of a photographer and premises to produce images for use in advertising material. Specific costs in connection with producing or disseminating digital or electronic advertising material This includes the cost of any software, of any kind, for use on any device to: design and produce advertising material in-house disseminate or facilitate dissemination of advertising material whether that material is distributed digitally, electronically or via other means. For example, a licencing fee for a software application for use on a device. It also includes any cost attributable to increasing the visibility of content by any means. For example, the purchase of a more prominent position on a page within a search engine. It includes the cost of preparing, producing or facilitating the production of advertising material for: download and use by others posting on and promoting material via any kind of social media channel or platform For example, the costs of producing advertising material promoting the campaign that is posted to a page on a social media channel encouraging followers to share it. It includes the cost of accessing, purchasing, developing and maintaining any digital or other network which: facilitates distribution or dissemination of material by any means promotes or increases the visibility of material by any means For example, the purchase of digital identities to make material appear as if it has been seen and approved by a high number of users on a social media platform. It includes the costs of: hosting, maintaining, designing or building a website or other electronic/digital material that promotes the outcome of the election any licensing or other rights fee for any image used in producing relevant material Other costs It includes the cost of purchase and use of any equipment used for: the preparation, production or facilitating the production of the material dissemination of the material by distribution or otherwise It includes the cost of: paper or any other medium on which material is printed or displayed physically displaying material in any location, for example cable ties or glue for putting up posters It includes the cost of printing material or the purchase, hire or use of: photocopying equipment printing equipment It includes the cost of accessing, obtaining, purchasing, developing or maintaining: IT software or contact databases any information, by whatever means, that is used to facilitate the sending of material to voters (for example, the purchase of email addresses) It includes the cost of accessing, obtaining, purchasing developing or maintaining data sets, including data analytics to target voters by whatever means, including the cost of agencies, organisations or others that identify groups of voters, by whatever means. For example, the cost of any agency paid to analyse social media content to facilitate targeting of voters across electoral areas and the cost of modelling by any agency based on that analysis. It includes any services to identify voters that are purchased, developed or provided before the regulated period, but are used to target voters during the regulated period. Where information or access to information is obtained from an external source, it includes the commercial cost of obtaining that information from the external source. It includes delivering material by any means including electronic means, for example the purchase of a system for sending emails or a licensing fee for a software application for use on a device, as well as physical distribution, for example the cost of envelopes and

stamps. It includes oversight and maintenance of all social media, digital or other forms of distribution of material including the maintenance of all social media accounts whether or not maintained by another entity/individual. Schedule 8A, paragraph 1(2) 'Canvassing, or market research seeking views or information from, members of the public.' This paragraph includes: Services, premises, facilities, or equipment provided by others It includes the cost of use, or hire, of any: agency, individual or organisation services provided by any agency, individual or organisation premises or facilities equipment used to: to prepare, produce, facilitate, conduct or co-ordinate canvassing or market research including recording or analysing or otherwise utilising the results of any market research or canvassing activity For example, the cost of using phone banks to contact voters, including the development of scripts for use by phone bank employees that are designed to influence voters. Costs of obtaining or maintaining data This includes the cost of accessing, purchasing, developing and maintaining: IT software or contact databases data sets, including the use of data analytics to facilitate or undertake market research or canvassing For example, it includes the cost of undertaking social media listening and analysing the result to analyse the intention of voters. Other costs It includes the cost of any purchase and use of any equipment required to: prepare, produce or facilitate canvassing or market research conduct or co-ordinate canvassing or market research record or analyse or otherwise utilise the results of any market research or canvassing activity For example, laptops or tablets if used for canvassing and mobile phones if used by the leader/co-ordinator of the canvassing where that equipment and/or associated costs are paid for or reimbursed by registered third party.

Schedule 8, paragraph 1(3) 'Press conferences, or other media events, organised by or on behalf of the third party.' This paragraph includes: Cost of press conferences or other dealings with the media This includes the cost of purchase, use or hire of any: agency, individual or organisation services provided by any agency, individual or organisation equipment premises or facilities used to prepare, produce, facilitate or conduct press conferences or other media events. Other costs It includes the costs of any rights or licensing fee for any image used in preparation, production, facilitating or conducting press conferences or other media events. It includes the cost of purchase and use of any equipment in connection with preparation, production, facilitating or conducting press conferences or other media events. Schedule 8, paragraph 1(4) 'Transport (by any means) of persons to any place or places with a view to obtaining publicity. Expenses in respect of the transport of such persons include the costs of hiring a particular means of transport.' This paragraph includes: Transport of volunteers or campaigners It includes the cost of transporting: volunteers members, including staff members others campaigning on behalf of the non-party campaigner around an electoral area, or to and from an electoral area, including the cost of: tickets for any transport, hiring of any transport fuel purchased for any transport parking for any transport where they are undertaking campaigning on behalf of the non-party campaigner. Other costs This includes the cost of use, or hire, of any vehicle or form of transport that displays material promoting the election result, including: design and application of the design to the vehicle or form of transport travelling between electoral areas travelling around an electoral area parking fees where a vehicle is used to display material Reportable costs include all transport costs associated with one of the other listed activities. For example, transporting someone to a rally. Schedule 8A, paragraph 1(5) 'Public rallies or other public events, other than— annual conferences of the third party, or any public procession or protest meeting, within the meaning

of the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 , in respect of which notice is given in accordance with section 6 or 7 of that Act (advance notice of public processions or related protest meetings). Expenses in respect of such events include costs incurred in connection with the attendance of persons at such events, the hire of premises for the purposes of such events or the provision of goods, services or facilities at them. But expenses in respect of such events do not include costs incurred in providing for the protection of persons or property.' This paragraph includes: Services, premises, facilities or equipment provided by others This includes the cost of use, or hire, of any: agency, individual or organisation services provided by any agency, individual or organisation premises or facilities equipment used in: promoting a rally or other event holding or conducting a rally or other event live streaming or broadcasting a rally or other event by any means Other costs It includes the cost of promoting or advertising the rally or event by any means. It includes the provision of any goods, services or facilities at the event, for example the cost of hiring seating. It includes the purchase of any equipment in connection with: holding or conducting a public meeting live streaming or broadcasting a public meeting by any means Costs that are excluded Reportable costs do not include the cost of providing specific security for any person appearing or attending at the event or the costs of providing general security for persons or property at the event. Annex B Definitions and key terms The following terms are used in this Code as they are defined in the legislation. In this Code the following definitions apply: Appropriate amount Appropriate amount has the same meaning as in section 86 PPERA. Campaign expenditure Campaign expenditure has the same meaning as in section 72 PPERA. Candidate Candidate means a candidate at a relevant election under section 22 PPERA. Controlled expenditure Controlled expenditure has the same meaning as in section 85 PPERA. Donation Donation has the same meaning as in Schedule 11 PPERA. General campaigns General campaigns are campaigns that meet the definition in s.85(2)(b) PPERA and are regulated under Part 6 PPERA; the campaign is for or against one or more political parties; parties or candidate that support or do not support particular policies; or other category of candidates. Notional expenditure Notional expenditure has the same meaning as in section 86 PPERA. means a party which is registered under Part II PPERA. Regulated period Regulated period means the 'relevant period' for an election as set out in Schedule 10 PPERA. Relevant election Relevant election means those elections set out in section 22 PPERA: UK parliamentary elections elections to the Scottish Parliament elections to the Senedd elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly elections of police and crime commissioners local government elections local elections in Northern Ireland. Costs Costs has its ordinary meaning of the expense of, or associated with, an item. It includes the appropriate amount to be treated as incurred by the non-party campaigner under the laws on notional spending. Incur Incur means make a legal commitment to spend money. Non-party campaigner Non-party campaigner means an individual or organisation that campaigns around elections without standing candidates themselves. In PPERA, non-party campaigners are referred to as 'third parties'. Registered non-party campaigner Registered non-party campaigner means a non-party campaigner that is on the register held by the Commission pursuant to a notification given to the Commission under section 88 PPERA. Registered non-party campaigners are referred to as 'recognised third parties' in PPERA (see section 88 for the statutory definition). Reporting threshold Reporting threshold means the 'lower-tier expenditure limits' defined in sections 85(5B) and set out in 94(5) PPERA as £20,000 in England and £10,000 for each of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Spending return Spending return means a

controlled expenditure return by a registered non-party campaigner as required under section 96 PPERA. 1. S.100A(1) Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) ■ Back to content at footnote 1 2. S.100A(5) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 2 3. S.94(3) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 3 4. S.88(2) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 4 5. S.88(3)(c)(ii) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 5 6. S.89A PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 6 7. S.89A(1) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 7 8. S.89A(6) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 8 9. Sch.8A para.1 PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 9 10. Sch.10 para.3(3) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 10 11. Schedule 10, Part 2, para 3(3)(b) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 11 12. Sch.10 para.7 Northern Ireland Act 1998 ■ Back to content at footnote 12 13. S.85(3) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 13 14. S.85(4A) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 14 15. S.85(6) PPERA (s.22(5) PPERA) ■ Back to content at footnote 15 16. S.94(3)(a)(ai) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 16 17. S.88 & s.28(7A) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 17 18. S.89A(2) PPERA (s.26 Elections Act 2022) ■ Back to content at footnote 18 19. S.89A(6) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 19 20. S.89A(1) PPERA (s.26 Elections Act 2022) & s.89A(4) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 20 21. S.94(3)(ai), s.94(3)(b)(i) & s.94(4) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 21 22. S.94(3)(a)(i) & s.94(3)(b)(ii) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 22 23. S.85(5B) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 23 24. S.85(5B) & s.88(3D) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 24 25. S.96(1), s.95(5) & s.95(5ZA) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 25 26. S.88(6A) & s.88(8)(b) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 26 27. S.94(3)(b)(ii) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 27 28. S.94(10A) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 28 29. S.96(1A) PPERA & s.98(2) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 29 30. S.97(1) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 30 31. S.96(2)(d) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 31 32. S.95A PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 32 33. S.95A(10) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 33 34. S.95B PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 34 35. S.95B(5) & (6) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 35 36. S.95B(9) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 36 37. S.96A PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 37 38. S.94(8) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 38 39. S.85(4A) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 39 40. Sch.8A para.2 PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 40 41. S.86(1)(a) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 41 42. S.86(6) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 42 43. S.86(1)(b) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 43 44. S.86(1A) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 44 45. S.86(3) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 45 46. S.86(4) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 46 47. S.73 PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 47 48. S.50(2) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 48 49. S.94(7) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 49 50. S.94(6) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 50 51. S.94A(3)(a) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 51 52. S.94A(3)(b) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 52 53. S.94A(1) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 53 54. S.94B(2) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 54 55. S.94B PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 55 56. S.94D PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 56 57. S.94E(1)(c)(i) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 57 58. S.94E(1)(c)(ii) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 58 59. S.94G(2) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 59 60. S.94G(3) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 60 61. S.94F(2) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 61 62. S.94G(6) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 62 63. S.94G(7) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 63 64. S.94E PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 64 65. Sch.11 para.(2) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 65 66. Sch.11 para.1(4) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 66 67. Sch.11 para.4(2) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 67 68. Sch.11 para.6 PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 68 69. Sch.11 para.1(6) PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 69 70. Sch.11 para.5 PPERA ■ Back to content at footnote 70 71. Sch.11 para.6(4) & (6) PPERA ■ Back to content at

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[What are non-party campaigners?](#) [Local campaigns at local elections](#) [The regulated period](#) [Spending limits](#) [Reporting](#) [Imprints](#) [Local campaigns at local elections](#) [If you are campaigning for or against a candidate at a local authority mayoral election in England, you are covered by the rules for local campaigns. The Electoral Commission does not regulate local campaigning. Complaints about possible breaches should be made to the police. Under the local campaign rules, there are limits on how much you can spend on campaigning for or against particular candidates in a constituency or local electoral area. These limits are different, depending on the size of the electorate in the relevant area. These spending limits cover spending on most campaign activities, including leaflets, meetings and digital campaigning. Last updated: 8 December 2021](#) [Book traversal links for Local campaigns at local elections](#)
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Non-party campaigners: Combined authority mayoral elections in England You are in the Non-party campaigners: Combined authority mayoral elections in England section Home Non-party campaigners: Combined authority mayoral elections in England View the navigation tree Go to main guidance section: Non-party campaigners: Combined authority mayoral elections in England What are non-party campaigners? Local campaigns at local elections The regulated period Spending limits Reporting Imprints Reporting If authorisation is given, the agent will need to include your spending in the candidate spending return. You will need to give the agent the necessary details for that spending to be included. If you spend more than the limit you must also complete a spending return and declaration and deliver these to the relevant Combined Authority Returning Officer (CARO) within 21 days of the result being declared. You can find contact details for the local elections office using our postcode lookup . Non party campaigner s75 spending return (PDF) Non party campaigner s75 declaration (PDF) Last updated: 2 February 2023 Book traversal links for Reporting Spending limits Imprints

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party campaigners: Local elections in Wales You are in the Non-party campaigners:

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elections, but are not standing as political parties or candidates. Non-party

campaigners have to follow certain rules in the run-up to elections. The types of

non-party campaigns There are two types of non-party campaigns. These are: General

campaigns Local campaigns Campaigns for or against: one or more political parties

parties or candidates that support or do not support particular policies other

categories of candidate Campaigns for or against: one or more candidates in a

particular constituency, ward or other electoral area You can find more information

about the different types of campaigns in our guidance Non-party campaigners: Where

to start . The general campaign rules do not apply at elections in Wales in 2023. You

therefore do not have to register with us or report donations to us, and spending on

activities directed only at your members will still count towards your spending

total. Last updated: 29 November 2022 Book traversal links for What are non-party

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published, it must contain certain details (which we refer to as an 'imprint') to
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case, they did not need to do). Since they did not exceed the reporting threshold in any nation in the UK, they did not need to submit quarterly or weekly pre-poll donation reports in the regulated period or report their spending and donations after the election. Example 3 - regulated campaign spending above the reporting threshold Alex Smith, an individual who is on the electoral register, has a budget of £33,000 to spend at a UKPGE in December 2024. They intend to use this money supporting their parties of choice on political adverts. They wish to spend £25,000 in England and £8,000 in Northern Ireland. As they are spending more than £10,000, they must send a notification to register with us before they spend more than £10,000 across both areas. Additionally, since they intend to spend more than £20,000 in England, they must comply with all the controls on receiving and accepting donations, record keeping, receiving and paying invoices within the statutory timescales, quarterly and weekly pre-poll reporting during the regulated period and post-election spending and donation reporting. Last updated: 24 November 2022 [Book traversal links for Elections Act 2022: Reporting threshold](#) [How to notify us to register as a non-party campaigner](#) [Elections Act 2022: Reporting at a UKPGE](#)

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Non-party campaigners: Combined authority mayoral elections in England What are non-party campaigners? Local campaigns at local elections The regulated period Spending limits Reporting Imprints Introduction This guidance is for non-party campaigners who are campaigning at combined authority mayoral elections in England. Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, non-party campaigners must follow rules about how much they can spend on campaign activities in the run up to certain elections. This guidance explains how the rules apply. Book traversal links for Non-party campaigners: Combined authority mayoral elections in England What are non-party campaigners?

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Purpose test: The regulated period in an early UK Parliamentary general election

Staff costs and other overheads

Joint campaigning

What happens if the policy I have been campaigning on is adopted by a political party? A political party may publicly adopt policies that you are already campaigning for or against. If your campaign did not meet the purpose test before the party changed its position, your planned campaign remains unlikely to meet the test. However, as a result of the party changing their position, you might enhance or increase your spending on the issue over what you originally planned. In this case, the further campaign spending will be regulated if it can reasonably be regarded as intended to promote or criticise the party. As usual you should assess your campaign using the factors we have set out . For example, if you welcome a political party's commitment to a policy that you have campaigned on, and it is clear that you would welcome a commitment from any political party, this will typically not meet the purpose test. Last updated: 24 May 2021

Book traversal links for What happens if the policy I have been campaigning on is adopted by a political party?

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Purpose test: Charities and other organisations with limits on their political activities

Local campaigns at local elections | Electoral Commission

Non-party campaigners: Local elections in England You are in the Non-party campaigners: Local elections in England section Home Non-party campaigners: Local elections in England View the navigation tree Go to main guidance section: Non-party campaigners: Local elections in England What are non-party campaigners? Local campaigns at local elections The regulated period Spending limits Reporting Imprints Local campaigns at local elections If you are campaigning for or against a candidate at a local election in England, you are covered by the rules for local campaigns. The Electoral Commission does not regulate local campaigning. Complaints about possible breaches should be made to the police. Under the local campaign rules, there are limits on how much you can spend on campaigning for or against particular candidates in a constituency or local electoral area. These limits are different, depending on the size of the electorate in the relevant area. These spending limits cover spending on most campaign activities, including leaflets, meetings and digital campaigning. Last updated: 8 December 2021 Book traversal links for Local campaigns at local elections What are non-party campaigners? The regulated period

[section Home](#) [View the navigation tree](#) [Go to main guidance section:](#) [What are non-party campaigners?](#) [Local campaigns at local elections](#) [The regulated period](#) [Spending limits](#) [Reporting](#) [Imprints](#) [Spending limits](#) During a regulated period, non-party campaigners are subject to limits on their spending on campaign activity. If you are campaigning for or against a candidate at a local authority mayoral election you have a limit of: £50 plus 0.5p for each elector who is registered to vote on the last day for publication of the notice of election in the local authority area. For example If there are 500,000 registered electors in the local authority area, your spending limit for campaigning for or against a candidate for Mayor would be: £50 + (500,000 x 0.5p) £50 + (£2,500) = £2550 Your local elections office will be able to give you the number of electors in the local authority. You can find the contact details for your local elections office on our [Elections in your area](#) page . You should keep a record of your spending, to make sure that you do not exceed the spending limit. Any spending over these limits must be authorised by the agent of the relevant candidate. The authorised spending will count as candidate spending and towards the candidate's spending limit. Last updated: 8 December 2021 [Book traversal links for Spending limits](#) [The regulated period](#) [Reporting](#)

party campaigners: Where to start You are in the Non-party campaigners: Where to start section Home Non-party campaigners: Where to start View the navigation tree Go to main guidance section: Non-party campaigners: Where to start What are the rules for non-party campaigners? Elections Act 2022: Changes for non-party campaigners - overview Elections Act 2022: Code of Practice for non-party campaigners Elections Act 2022: New limits on campaigning by non-UK individuals and organisations Elections Act 2022: New notification threshold How to notify us to register as a non-party campaigner Elections Act 2022: Reporting threshold Elections Act 2022: Reporting at a UKPGE What spending is regulated? Does your campaign activity meet the purpose test? Purpose test: Intention Purpose test: Campaigning on an issue What happens if the policy I have been campaigning on is adopted by a political party? Purpose test: Charities and other organisations with limits on their political activities Purpose test: The regulated period in an early UK Parliamentary general election Staff costs and other overheads Joint campaigning Staff costs and other overheads You will need to include staff costs, as well as other overheads, where they are associated with your regulated activities. Staff costs that are associated with your organisation's general, non-campaign related activities do not count as regulated campaign spending. If you have a member of staff working on regulated campaign activity as well as your organisation's other work, you will need to count a proportion of the staff salary which reflects the time spent working on regulated campaign activities. If your organisation already has an established way of apportioning these costs, you may decide to calculate staff costs incurred in relation to regulated campaign activities in the same way. In each case you should make an honest and reasonable assessment of the amount you have spent, based on the facts. You should be able to explain what the assessment is based on. Examples of calculating staff costs and overheads: Example 1 A member of staff estimates that they spent half of their time working on regulated activity during the regulated period. You treat half of what you pay that staff member during the regulated period as regulated spending. Eg2 staff costs Example 2 You are planning an online campaign that will meet the purpose and public tests. From your budgeting and team planning you have estimated in advance that your Campaigns team will spend 20% of their time working on it for three months of the regulated period. If this estimate turns out to be correct, you count 20% of the staff costs for the Campaigns team for three months towards the spending on that online campaign. Eg 3 staff costs Example 3 Carrying out a canvassing campaign, your office telephone bills increase. The increase in the telephone costs counts towards the regulated spending for your campaign. You could estimate this increase by looking at your telephone bill at the same time last year, and calculating the extra you have spent this year. Last updated: 24 May 2021 Book traversal links for Staff costs and other overheads Purpose test: The regulated period in an early UK Parliamentary general election Joint campaigning

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Non-party campaigners: Case studies | Electoral Commission

Non-party campaigners: Case studies View the navigation tree Go to main guidance section: Non-party campaigners: Case studies Case study 1: Immigration Case study 2: Fracking Case studies from recent elections This section contains case studies of some issues-based campaigns that took place in the run up to the UK Parliamentary general elections in 2015 and 2017. The case studies give detailed assessments of the public test and the purpose test for each campaign. These assessments may provide a model for how to assess your own campaign activities against the tests. For more details on the tests, please read our non-party campaigner guidance . Thanks to campaigners and caveat Our thanks to the campaigners whose campaigns we have used for these case studies. The assessments in the case studies are our assessments, as the regulator, of how the law applied to these particular cases, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the campaigners involved. Book traversal links for Non-party campaigners: Case studies Case study 1: Immigration

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and other overheads Joint campaigning What spending is regulated? If you spend money
on one of the five activities during a regulated period, you need to apply two tests
to your spending to decide if it is regulated: the purpose test the public test For
your spending to be regulated, it must meet the purpose test. In addition, for three
types of activity, the public test must also be met. The purpose test The purpose
test is met if your activity can reasonably be regarded as intended to influence
voters to vote for or against: one or more political parties political parties or
candidates that support or do not support particular policies other categories of
candidates, for example, candidates who went to a state school, or independent
candidates (who are not standing in the name of a political party) This test applies
to any of the five campaign activities. The public test The public test is met if
your activity is aimed at the public or a section of the public. Your members and
committed supporters do not count as members of the public. This test applies to:
election material canvassing and market research public rallies or public events For
more details on the public test, please see pages 7-8 of Overview of regulated non-
party campaigning It is important that you think carefully when applying the tests
for regulated spending, because there are electoral offences linked to failing to
follow the rules. Most of the rest of this guidance document focuses on how to apply
the purpose test to your campaign activities. Last updated: 24 May 2021 Book
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UKPGE Does your campaign activity meet the purpose test?

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What are non-party campaigners? Non-party campaigners are individuals or organisations that campaign in elections, but are not standing as political parties or candidates. Non-party campaigners have to follow certain rules in the run-up to elections. The types of non-party campaigns

There are two types of non-party campaigns. These are:

- General campaigns
- Local campaigns

Campaigns for or against: one or more political parties

parties or candidates that support or do not support particular policies

other categories of candidate

Campaigns for or against: one or more candidates in a particular constituency, ward or other electoral area

You can find more information about the different types of campaigns in our guidance

Non-party campaigners: Where to start

. The general campaign rules do not apply at elections in England in May 2022. You therefore do not have to register with us or report donations to us, and spending on activities directed only at your members will still count towards your spending total. Last updated: 8 December 2021

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campaigners who are campaigning at local elections in England. Under the
Representation of the People Act 1983, non-party campaigners must follow rules about
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[campaigners: Where to start](#) You are in the [Non-party campaigners: Where to start](#) section Home [Non-party campaigners: Where to start](#) [View the navigation tree](#) Go to main guidance section: [Non-party campaigners: Where to start](#) [What are the rules for non-party campaigners?](#) [Elections Act 2022: Changes for non-party campaigners - overview](#) [Elections Act 2022: Code of Practice for non-party campaigners](#) [Elections Act 2022: New limits on campaigning by non-UK individuals and organisations](#) [Elections Act 2022: New notification threshold](#) [How to notify us to register as a non-party campaigner](#) [Elections Act 2022: Reporting threshold](#) [Elections Act 2022: Reporting at a UKPGE](#) [What spending is regulated?](#) [Does your campaign activity meet the purpose test?](#) [Purpose test: Intention](#) [Purpose test: Campaigning on an issue](#) [What happens if the policy I have been campaigning on is adopted by a political party?](#) [Purpose test: Charities and other organisations with limits on their political activities](#) [Purpose test: The regulated period in an early UK Parliamentary general election](#) [Staff costs and other overheads](#) [Joint campaigning](#) [Joint campaigning](#) If you and another campaigner are incurring joint spending in a joint campaign, then the regulated spending by each campaigner counts towards the regulated spending total for both campaigners. This is to stop campaigners combining their spending limits to avoid the rules. What we mean by joint spending We recognise that campaigners may come together to campaign in a variety of ways, and that these might change over the course of a campaign. Under electoral law, joint spending means spending money on regulated campaign activities where there is a common plan or arrangement between one or more non-party campaigners. You cannot be incurring joint spending if you are not planning on spending money – for example if the work is going to be done by volunteers. You are unlikely to be incurring joint spending if you: campaign on the same issue without a common plan or arrangement speak at another campaigner’s event without being involved in any other way have informal discussions with another campaigner, or keep each other informed, in a way that does not involve decision-making or coordinating your plans endorse another campaign without having any further involvement – for example if you: sign a letter written by another campaigner add your branding to another campaign publicise your support for another campaign You are likely to be incurring joint spending if: you have joint advertising campaigns, leaflets or events you coordinate your regulated campaign activity with another campaigner – for example, if you agree that you should each cover particular areas, arguments or voters another campaigner can approve or has significant influence over your leaflets, websites, or other campaign activity For more on the joint campaigning rules, please see [Joint campaigning for non-party campaigners](#) Last updated: 24 May 2021 [Book traversal links for Joint campaigning](#) [Staff costs and other overheads](#)

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Non-party campaigners:

Combined authority mayoral elections in England

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elections The regulated period Spending limits Reporting Imprints Spending limits

During a regulated period, non-party campaigners are subject to limits on their
spending on campaign activity. If you are campaigning for or against a candidate at a

combined authority mayoral election you have a limit of: £50 plus 0.5p for each

elector who is registered to vote on the last day for publication of the notice of

election in the combined authority area. For example If there are 500,000 registered

electors in the combined authority area, your spending limit for campaigning for or

against a candidate for Mayor would be: £50 + (500,000 x 0.5p) £50 + (£2,500) = £2550

Your local elections office will be able to give you the number of electors in the

combined authority. You can find the contact details for your local elections office

on our Elections in your area page . You should keep a record of your spending, to

make sure that you do not exceed the spending limit. Any spending over these limits

must be authorised by the agent of the relevant candidate. The authorised spending

will count as candidate spending and towards the candidate's spending limit. Last

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the section Home View the navigation tree Go to main guidance section: What are non-party campaigners? Local campaigns at local elections The regulated period Spending limits Reporting Imprints The regulated period We call the time when the spending limits and rules apply the regulated period. The regulated period starts on the day after the person you are campaigning for or against officially becomes a candidate, and finishes on polling day. You can find more information about polling dates and when people become candidates on our guidance page for candidates and agents . Last updated: 8 December 2021 Book traversal links for The regulated period Local campaigns at local elections Spending limits

Local elections in England You are in the Non-party campaigners: Local elections in England section Home Non-party campaigners: Local elections in England View the navigation tree Go to main guidance section: Non-party campaigners: Local elections in England What are non-party campaigners? Local campaigns at local elections The regulated period Spending limits Reporting Imprints Spending limits During a regulated period, non-party campaigners are subject to limits on their spending on campaign activity. The spending limit for local elections is: £50 plus 0.5p per local government elector in the ward who is registered to vote on the last day for publication of the notice of election in the ward For example If there are 1,000 people on the ward electoral register, your spending limit for campaigning for or against a candidate would be: £50 + (1000 x 0.5p) £50 + (£5) = £55 Your local elections office will be able to give you the number of electors in the ward. You can find the contact details for your local elections office on our Elections in your area page . You should keep a record of your spending, to make sure that you do not exceed the spending limit. Any spending over these limits must be authorised by the agent of the relevant candidate. The authorised spending will count as candidate spending and towards the candidate's spending limit. Last updated: 8 December 2021 Book traversal links for Spending limits The regulated period Reporting

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What are non-party campaigners?

Non-party campaigners are individuals or organisations that campaign in elections, but are not standing as political parties or candidates. Non-party campaigners have to follow certain rules in the run-up to elections. The types of non-party campaigns

There are two types of non-party campaigns. These are:

- General campaigns
- Local campaigns

Campaigns for or against: one or more political parties

parties or candidates that support or do not support particular policies

other categories of candidate

Campaigns for or against: one or more candidates in a particular constituency, ward or other electoral area

You can find more information about the different types of campaigns in our guidance

Non-party campaigners: Where to start

. The general campaign rules do not apply at elections in Scotland in 2023. You therefore do not have to register with us or report donations to us, and spending on activities directed only at your members will still count towards your spending total. Last updated: 29 November 2022

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If you are campaigning for or against a candidate at a combined authority mayoral election in England, you are covered by the rules for local campaigns. The Electoral Commission does not regulate local campaigning. Complaints about possible breaches should be made to the police. Under the local campaign rules, there are limits on how much you can spend on campaigning for or against particular candidates in a constituency or local electoral area. These limits are different, depending on the size of the electorate in the relevant area. These spending limits cover spending on most campaign activities, including leaflets, meetings and digital campaigning. Last updated: 2 February 2023

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candidate at a council election in Scotland, you are covered by the rules for local
campaigns. The Electoral Commission does not regulate local campaigning. Complaints
about possible breaches should be made to the police. Under the local campaign rules,
there are limits on how much you can spend on campaigning for or against particular
candidates in a constituency or local electoral area. These limits are different,
depending on the size of the electorate in the relevant area. These spending limits
cover spending on most campaign activities, including leaflets, meetings and digital
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on an issue Campaigns that mention political parties or candidates In almost all

cases, an activity will meet the purpose test if it: explicitly promotes political

parties or candidates who support your campaign's aims implicitly promotes some

parties or candidates over others, for example by setting out or comparing the merits

of the positions of political parties or candidates on a policy Campaigns that do not

mention political parties or candidates If your campaign does not mention candidates,

parties, or elections, then your spending is less likely to be regulated. This is

because on the balance of the factors - in particular 'call to action to voters' and

'tone' – your activity is less likely to meet the purpose test. In order for an

activity to meet the test, the voter needs to know which way they are being persuaded

to vote. However, your campaign might identify a political party, parties, or group

of candidates implicitly, without naming them. This could happen if a policy or issue

is so closely and publicly associated with a party, parties or category of candidates

that it is effectively a shorthand for them in your campaign. In this case, your

campaign will meet the purpose test if, after assessing all the factors, it is

reasonable to regard your campaign activity on the policy as intended to influence

voters to vote for or against those political parties or candidates. Specific

policies may be more likely than more general issues to be closely associated with

parties or candidates. Example: 'Social care' and the 'dementia tax' at the 2017 UK

Parliamentary general election Example: 'Social care' and the 'dementia tax' at the

2017 UK Parliamentary general election 'Social care' was a prominent issue at the

time, but most prominent parties had a range of policies and positions on it. The

general issue was not closely and publicly associated with any party or category of

candidates. A campaign on social care would have been unlikely to meet the purpose

test unless it specifically mentioned parties or candidates. The 'dementia tax' was a

particular clear and prominent policy of the Conservative and Unionist Party at the

election, announced as part of their manifesto during the campaign. It was closely

and publicly associated with them. A campaign against the dementia tax would have

been much more likely to meet the purpose test on the balance of the factors –

particularly because the very phrase 'dementia tax' is one that was coined and used

by the Conservatives' opponents in that election campaign. Case studies from recent

elections Our case studies give examples of issues-based campaigns from recent

elections and explain whether or not they met the purpose test: Non-party campaigner

case studies from recent elections Last updated: 24 May 2021 Book traversal links for

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If you are campaigning for or against a candidate at a local election in Wales, you are covered by the rules for local campaigns. The Electoral Commission does not regulate local campaigning. Complaints about possible breaches should be made to the police. Under the local campaign rules, there are limits on how much you can spend on campaigning for or against particular candidates in a constituency or local electoral area. These limits are different, depending on the size of the electorate in the relevant area. These spending limits cover spending on most campaign activities, including leaflets, meetings and digital campaigning. Last updated: 9 December 2021

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Fracking Action days Website pledge campaign Case study 2: Fracking An environmental

campaigner ran a series of campaigns on fracking during the regulated period for

the general election. The first campaign was an action day where a number of events

took place across an area where fracking applications were under consideration by the

council. The second campaign aimed to get candidates to sign a pledge against

fracking. The campaigner's website had an interactive map of the UK, with each

constituency showing which of its candidates had signed the pledge. There was also a

running total for how many candidates from each party had signed the pledge. Other

material promoted the website, asked candidates to sign the pledge, and asked voters

to write to their candidates to ask them to sign. Last updated: 19 September 2023

Book traversal links for Case study 2: Fracking Case study 1: Immigration Action days

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and other overheads Joint campaigning Purpose test: Intention When you intend
something, you can in some circumstances be reasonably regarded as having a different
intention, or a further intention. The primary intention of your campaign may not be
to influence voters. For example, you might run a campaign with one or more of the
following intentions: raising awareness of an issue influencing political parties to
adopt a policy in their manifestos campaigning for or against government legislation
providing information to voters encouraging people to register to vote encouraging
people to vote, but not for anyone in particular A campaign that can be reasonably
regarded as having one of these intentions will not meet the purpose test unless it
can also be reasonably regarded as having the intention to influence voters to vote
for or against a political party or category of candidates. Even if your primary
intention is something else, your campaign will still meet the purpose test if it can
be reasonably regarded as intended to influence voters to vote for or against a
political party or category of candidates. For example, suppose for example your
intention is to influence political parties to adopt a policy. If you go about this
by identifying and promoting parties and candidates who have already adopted the
policy, then this will meet the purpose test. Last updated: 24 May 2021 Book
traversal links for Purpose test: Intention Does your campaign activity meet the
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regulated period in an early UK Parliamentary general election Staff costs and other
overheads Joint campaigning New limits on campaigning by non-UK individuals and
organisations The Act introduced new restrictions on who can campaign at UKPGE and NI
Assembly elections. Individuals and organisations that are not based in the UK, do
not have a UK connection or are not on a UK electoral register cannot spend more than
£700 on regulated campaign activity. A non-party campaigner can only spend more than
£700 on regulated campaign activity if they are: an individual registered on a UK
electoral register or resident in the UK a UK registered company which is
incorporated in the UK and carries on business in the UK a UK registered trade union
a UK registered building society a UK registered limited liability partnership which
carries on business in the UK a UK registered friendly, industrial or provident
society an unincorporated association that has its main office in the UK and carries
on the majority of its business or other activities in the UK a body incorporated by
Royal Charter a UK charitable incorporated organisation a Scottish partnership which
carries on business in the UK an unincorporated association with the requisite UK
connection Unincorporated association with the requisite UK connection The Act
introduced a new type of organisation that can spend money on regulated campaign
activity. An unincorporated association has 'the requisite UK connection' if it
consists of two or more persons, all of whom are registered overseas electors.
Unincorporated associations with the requisite UK connection (unlike unincorporated
associations that have its main office in the UK and carry on the majority of its
business or activities in the UK) are not eligible to submit a notification to the
Commission and cannot spend more than £10,000 on regulated campaign activity. Last
updated: 24 November 2022 Book traversal links for Elections Act 2022: New limits on
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Purpose test: The regulated period in an early UK Parliamentary general election

The non-party campaigner rules under PPERA only apply in the period before certain elections. This is known as the 'regulated period'.

Election type

Length of regulated period

UK Parliamentary general elections

365 days before polling day

Scottish Parliamentary elections

Senedd elections

Northern Ireland Assembly elections

4 months before polling day

In an unscheduled UK Parliamentary general election, such as the 2017 UK Parliamentary general election, the time between the election's announcement and polling day is typically shorter than the length of the regulated period. When this happens, the regulated period will still run for 365 days. It will therefore have started before the election was announced. This does not happen in unscheduled elections to the Scottish Parliament, Senedd or Northern Ireland Assembly. It is a feature of early UK Parliamentary general elections. Campaign activity before an election is announced

The retrospective nature of the regulated period may concern campaigners due to uncertainty about whether the rules apply. However, most campaign activity undertaken before an election is announced is unlikely to meet the purpose test. First, many campaigns are purely issues-based rather than focusing on candidates or parties. Policies and issues may not be sufficiently closely and publicly associated with a party, parties or category of candidates for the campaign activity to meet the purpose test. This is especially true when the campaigns were intended to take place outside of an election period, since then they are less likely to have a call to action to voters, or even to mention parties or candidates. Second, you are unlikely to be reasonably regarded as intending to influence people to vote in an election when you do not know or expect that the election is happening. Therefore, where this was the case, your activity is unlikely to have met the purpose test. The likely exceptions to this are if either: you ran campaigns which met the purpose test in a different election in the regulated period – for example you campaigned in local elections earlier in the year you anticipated or made reference to the future election before it was announced – for example "Vote Conservative in the coming election", or "Unseat MPs who voted for austerity". If you spend money on campaigning like this at any time, then you will need to keep a record of what you have spent. This is so that if an early UK Parliamentary general election is called, you will know how much regulated spending you have incurred in the regulated period.

Last updated: 17 December 2021

Book traversal links for Purpose test: The regulated period in an early UK Parliamentary general election

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printed election material is published, it must contain certain details (which we
refer to as an 'imprint') to show who is responsible for the material. This helps to
ensure there is transparency about who is campaigning. Please see our imprint
factsheet for non-party campaigners for guidance on using imprints on election
material: Imprints for Non-Party s: UK Parliamentary elections, and elections in
England, Wales and Northern Ireland Last updated: 8 December 2021 Book traversal
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