

Report: Political finance regulation at the June 2017 UK general election | Electoral Commission    Search    Report: Political finance regulation at the June 2017 UK general election    You are in the UK general elections section Home UK general elections On this page Regulating the election Looking ahead: Regulation at future elections Download our full report Download the candidate spending data First published: 19 June 2019 Last updated: 6 April 2020 What the report includes This report identifies specific issues that emerged during the June 2017 UK Parliamentary general election campaign and highlights the proactive work we undertook to ensure that candidates, political parties and non-party campaigners were informed of, and complied with, the rules. Regulating the election Having an early and unexpected election presented practical challenges for parties and other campaigners, but we were able to work constructively with many of them. For the most part, we are pleased to observe that parties and other campaigners intended to, and did, comply with election spending and funding rules. We will monitor the pending returns that are due in later this year to check that this was indeed the case.

Digital campaigning Candidates, political parties and non-party campaigners made significant use of digital campaigning in this election. This provides new opportunities for campaigners to engage voters. But there are also risks to transparency and confidence for voters, for example, relating to the use of enhanced direct targeting techniques, including 'bots', and there is room to improve election law in this area. Looking ahead: Regulation at future elections We are ready to work with the UK's governments and legislatures to bring about the changes that are needed to provide further transparency about spending on digital and online campaigns. We repeat our previous recommendations that campaigners should be required to provide imprints on digital and online campaign material, and that staffing costs for all types of campaigners should be regulated. These changes would increase transparency for voters about who is seeking to influence their vote during election campaigns, and what techniques are being used. We also repeat our calls for having more robust powers in place to deal with breaches of the rules and that our investigative and sanctioning powers at major elections should be extended to include offences relating to candidate spending and donations. Most campaigners follow the rules, but failures to comply can reduce transparency for voters and confidence that an election was well run. It is therefore important that when breaches do occur they are dealt with robustly and effectively. The time has come for these changes to be implemented by the UK's governments and legislatures, ahead of the next national elections in 2021 and 2022. Download our full report Political finance regulation at the June 2017 UK general election Download the candidate spending data Candidate spending at the 2017 UK Parliamentary election (XLS) Candidate spending at the 2017 UK Parliamentary election (CSV) Related content Report: How the 2017 UK general election was run Read our report about how the 2017 general election was run Results and turnout at the 2017 UK general election View the results and turnout at the 2017 general election Report: Electoral registration at the June 2017 UK general election Read our report about electoral registration at the 2017 general election Report: Voting in 2017 Read our report about voting at the general election in 2017