

Consultation on revised enforcement policy | Electoral Commission Search
Consultation on revised enforcement policy You are in the Our consultations
section Home Our consultations On this page What we're consulting on How to respond
Changes to the enforcement policy View the revised enforcement policy Questionnaire
First published: 16 January 2023 What we're consulting on As the regulator of
political finance in the UK, we ensure that parties and campaigners follow the law.
If we believe that the law may have been broken, we can take action. This gives
voters, parties, and campaigners confidence that the system is fair. The Political
Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) requires us to provide guidance
on our investigation powers, and sanctioning of potential offences and contraventions
of the act. We publish a statutory enforcement policy, which we refer to when running
an investigation. We regularly review the policy and have just completed our latest
review. We are running a public consultation on the changes. Your views will help us
make this policy as clear and helpful as possible, so that our approach to
enforcement is transparent, and can be easily understood. How to respond This
consultation is open from Monday 16 January until Friday 31 March 2023. You can
respond by filling in our online form emailing your views to
epconsultation@electoralcommission.org.uk writing to us at: Enforcement Team The
Electoral Commission 3 Bunhill Row London EC1Y 8YZ If you have any questions or
require any help to be able to respond, please get in touch on 0333 103 1928. Changes
to the enforcement policy We have reviewed our enforcement policy. The revised
version doesn't represent significant changes to our operational work, but makes
clear how we already work. We're asking for your views to help make the document as
clear as possible. Some of the changes we have made include: Revised how we explain
our approach to enforcement. This makes it clear how the enforcement policy sits
within a wider context. Revised how we explain our approach and added direct
references to impartiality. We have made it clear that we will only take enforcement
action when it's necessary and proportionate. Included a new section on our
forfeiture approach. This is a process of removing impermissible funds from the
system and is usually voluntary. We feel it is helpful for campaigners if we explain
our approach. Included recognition of the impact investigations can have on those
involved, and that we will be sensitive to this. We have also included reference to
our commitment to recognising and taking account of diversity. Removed an annex
advising interviewees on the interview process. This is already provided to anyone
invited for interview during an investigation. Other minor wording changes to improve
clarity and provide as much certainty as possible for campaigners. For example, in
what circumstances we consider opening an investigation, and our approach to
disclosure of information. View the revised enforcement policy View the revised
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