How much of what I receive is a donation? | Electoral Commission donations and loans in Northern Ireland You are in the Sponsorship section Home donations and loans in Northern Ireland Sponsorship View the navigation tree Go to main guidance section: donations and loans in Northern Ireland Terms we use in this guidance Which donations are covered by the rules? What do you need to do when you receive a donation? How do you work out the value of a donation? Crowdfunding Auction prizes Sponsorship Are there any exemptions to the sponsorship rules? How much of what you receive is a donation? Party conferences and conference stands What must you record when you accept a donation? What do you do if you receive a donation from an impermissible or unidentifiable source? Which loans are covered by the rules? What do you need to do before you enter into a loan? How do you work out the value of a loan? What must you record when you enter into a loan? What do you do if you have a loan from an impermissible source? Who can you accept donations and loans from? Which donations and loans do you need to report? How to report donations and loans How much of what you receive is a donation? When calculating the value of sponsorship, the full amount of the payment received should be taken into account and reported if over the thresholds above. No deduction for any commercial value, or any benefit to the sponsor etc, should be made. Fundraising events and dinners If an event is hosted by or on behalf of a party (or party accounting unit), or another regulated organisation or individual, support to help meet the costs of the event must be treated as sponsorship. For payments for a place or table at a dinner organised by a party or other regulated organisation or individual, the difference between the value of the dinner and the amount paid is a donation. Treatment of VAT Where a sponsorship payment includes VAT, the question of whether the VAT element should be reported as part of the sponsorship will depend on the facts. For instance, if the party would have been liable for the VAT if it had not been paid, then its payment is a benefit to the party and should be reported as sponsorship. Sponsorship by companies Where a company makes a payment that is treated as sponsorship, the entire amount is considered a donation under electoral law. Companies will therefore need to ensure that they have complied with any applicable controls on making a political donation under company law. Last updated: 31 March 2022 Book traversal links for How much of what I receive is a donation? Are there any exemptions to the sponsorship rules? Party conferences and conference stands