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respond How we developed the draft Code Questionnaire Background First published: 24  
November 2022 Last updated: 24 November 2022 Summary Summary Some individuals and  
organisations that are not political parties campaign on issues or causes around  
elections without standing candidates themselves. They play a significant role in  
providing voters with information and a diversity of voices. The Commission calls  
these individuals and organisations non-party campaigners. In electoral law they are  
called third parties. The Elections Act 2022 includes new requirements for  
registration and spending by non-party campaigners. The Act introduces a duty on the  
Electoral Commission to produce a Code of Practice on the laws relating to non-party  
campaigner spending, including what qualifies as expenses, reporting controlled  
expenditure and donations, and joint campaigning. The Code will apply to general  
elections to the UK Parliament (UKPG) and Northern Ireland Assembly (NIA). The Code  
of Practice, once finalised will be presented to the Secretary of State for Levelling  
Up, Housing and Communities. The Minister may then modify the Code before laying it  
for parliamentary approval. Your views will help us make the Code we present to the  
Secretary of State as clear and helpful as possible. The Commission must have regard  
to this Code when exercising its functions under Part 6 of the Political Parties,  
Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). 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. The consultation closed on 20 January 2023. Read our  
response to the consultation on Code of Practice for Non-party s . How to respond The  
consultation is open from 24 November 2022 until 20 January 2023. You can respond by:  
filling in our online form emailing your views to  
codeconsultation@electoralcommission.org.uk or writing to us at: Regulatory Support  
Team The Electoral Commission 3 Bunhill Row London EC1Y 8YZ Throughout the  
consultation period, we will continue to engage with the electoral and campaigning  
community. We are happy to meet with any groups or interested individuals on request.  
If you have any questions, please do get in touch on 0207 271 0546. How we developed  
the draft Code We talked to a range of non-party campaigners from across the UK to  
inform the draft Code. We asked them about: their understanding of the new provisions  
their experiences of campaigning under the Political Parties, Elections and  
Referendum Act 2000 (PPERA) legal framework how they see non-party campaigning  
evolving in the future View the draft Code of Practice Questionnaire NPC guidance  
Status message This consultation closed on 20 January 2023. Leave this field blank  
Background Existing non-party campaigner legislation There are well-established laws  
regulating the activities of non-party campaigners in the periods before elections.  
These include laws on who can spend money at elections, how much money they can  
spend, how they must comply with who they accept donations from and what information  
they need to report about their spending and receipt of donations. For more  
information on these laws, please see our existing guidance . Elections Act 2022 The  
UK Elections Act 2022 includes provisions that lowers the notification threshold for  
non-party campaigners at UK Parliamentary elections. It also limits spending by non-  
party campaigners who do not have a UK connection at these, and Northern Ireland  
Assembly, elections. Section 29 of the Elections Act 2022 contains a specific duty on  
the Commission to produce a statutory Code of Practice for non-party campaigners at  
UK Parliamentary general elections and NI Assembly elections. This Code of Practice,  
unlike most of the Commission's guidance, must be approved by the relevant Minister,

and the UK Parliament.