Are there any exemptions to the sponsorship rules? | 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 Are there any exemptions to the sponsorship rules? Yes: Admission charges for conferences, meetings or other events - for example party conference entry passes or an admission fee to attend an event organised by or on behalf of a party, regulated organisation or individual The purchase price of any publications Commercial rate payments for adverts in publications – any amounts above the commercial rate will not be exempt and will be considered a donation if the value exceeds £500 Some payments for conference stands Are all types of advertising exempt? No. The exemption only applies up to the commercial value of adverts which appear in publications. For example, adverts that appear in any publication, including a publication which sets out a party's policies, such as a manifesto ahead of an election. Payments for any other type of advertising, such as banners at an event or digital advertising at a virtual event, should be treated as sponsorship if they help meet the cost of the event. Advertising payments that do not help to meet the costs of an event or publication in any way do not count as sponsorship. For example, if you sell advertising space for your online event and do not incur any direct costs for the event. However, if someone pays more than the commercial value of an advert, the difference between what they pay and the commercial value will be a donation. Last updated: 31 March 2022 Book traversal links for Are there any exemptions to the sponsorship rules? Sponsorship How much of what you receive is a donation?