Public funding for political parties | Electoral Commission Search Public funding for political parties You are in the Donations and loans section Home Donations and loans On this page Policy Development Grants Other public funds When we publish information First published: 11 July 2019 Last updated: 7 March 2023 Policy Development Grants Each year, we have £2 million from UK Parliament to allocate to political parties as a Policy Development Grant. The grant gives political parties the funds to develop policies to include in their election manifestos. The grant is only available to parties with at least two sitting members of the House of Commons, who have taken the oath of allegiance. We distribute the first £1 million of the grant equally between the eligible parties. We then use a formula to calculate how much of the remaining £1 million parties. The formula is based on the: proportion of the registered electorate where the party contests elections (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland) share of the vote the party received in each part of the UK These are the electorate figures we used in this year's calculations: Part of the UK Electorate England 38,834,540 Wales 2,310,148 Scotland 4,012,887 Northern Ireland 1,371,934 When we have calculated how much each party can apply for, we invite them to submit their application. The application needs to include the policy development activities the party is planning for the year ahead. Parties will often include all of their policy development activities, even if the total cost is more than the amount they can apply for. If we approve the application, we give up to 75% of the grant in advance. At the end of the year, each party must submit an independent audit report confirming that the funds were spent on policy development. We then will either pay the party the full amount of the grant, or we will recover the grant we paid in advance if the party didn't spend it on policy development activities. If we recover any grants, it goes back to the government's consolidated fund. Other public funds Political parties can also receive funding from parliamentary bodies. This includes: Short Money, which the House of Commons pays to opposition parties Cranborne Money, which the House of Lords pays to the opposition and second largest opposition party in the House of Lords Financial Assistance, which the Scottish Parliament pays to opposition parties in the Scottish Parliament Financial Assistance, which the Northern Ireland Assembly pays to opposition parties in the Northern Ireland Assembly When we publish information We include information about the public funding political parties have received when we publish the donations four times a year. We also comment on public funding in our annual report. Related content Registers of unincorporated associations Download and view the registers of unincorporated associations Donations accepted View data about donations accepted by parties and campaigners Public funds View data about public funds received by parties Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number.