

Consultation on draft NPC Code of Practice | Electoral Commission Search
Consultation on draft NPC Code of Practice You are in the Our consultations
section Home Our consultations NPC Code of Practice On this page Summary How to
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.