

Referendum on the UK Parliamentary voting system: December 2010 campaigner update

The Government has proposed a referendum on the UK parliamentary voting system on 5 May 2011.

Parliament is considering the Bill enabling the referendum. The Bill also sets out how the referendum would be run, and makes changes to the rules that campaigners must follow.

We published initial guidance for campaigners in November 2010, and we will publish final guidance when the rules are confirmed.

We understand that campaigners may want to start planning before this, so this series of updates will highlight key points that may be helpful.

About this update

This update is based on the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill as passed by the House of Commons (the Bill). It is now being considered by the House of Lords.

Parliament may amend the Bill, so some of the information may change. We will highlight any changes in future updates.

We will publish updates at key stages in the parliamentary process. You can sign up to receive these updates by calling 020 7271 0616 or emailing pef@electoralcommission.org.uk.

This third update will be of interest to campaigners who are considering applying to be designated as a lead campaign group and provides:

- A copy of the application form for lead campaign group status at the National Assembly for Wales referendum 2011
- A summary of the key terms and conditions that will apply to the

grants made available to designated organisations

Application form for lead campaign group status

We can appoint a lead campaign group for each outcome in the referendum. Lead campaign groups have several benefits, including a higher spending limit and a publicly funded grant from us.

National Assembly for Wales referendum 2011

The application period to apply for designation at the National Assembly for Wales referendum will open on 16 December 2010 and we have now published the application form campaigners should use at this referendum on our website at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/102697/doc-application-wales-lc.pdf

The application form for designation at the referendum on the UK Parliamentary voting system will be very similar to that used for the National Assembly for Wales referendum. The form includes explanatory notes to help applicants understand the criteria that the Electoral Commission must use in considering designation, and how best to provide evidence to help us assess applications against those criteria.

Grant terms and conditions

We have published a summary of the key terms and conditions that we intend to apply to the grants to be

made available to designated lead campaign groups at the referendum on the UK Parliamentary voting system. A copy of this summary can be found on our website at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/106964/doc-summary-terms-lc.pdf

The full terms and conditions will be published before the start of the regulated referendum period, which will also be the point at which campaigners can apply for designation.

Where you can find more information

For advice and guidance

We are always happy to give prospective campaigners advice on how to comply with the rules.

Please contact us on 020 7271 0616, www.electoralcommission.org.uk or pef@electoralcommission.org.uk, or at:

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Join our update list

You can sign up to receive these updates by calling 020 7271 0616 or emailing pef@electoralcommission.org.uk.

For other information about the referendum

On our website, www.electoralcommission.org.uk, you can find:

- our guidance for referendum campaigners
- more information about our role in referendums
- our key principles for running referendums
- our approach to assessing referendum questions
- our findings on the referendum question
- briefings on the Bill explaining our position on provisions where appropriate