

EU referendum: Campaigner update No. 7

March 2016

Join our update list

You can sign up to receive these updates on our [website](#) or by calling 0333 103 1928

The referendum on the UK's membership of the EU will be held on 23 June 2016.

We are the regulator of political funding and spending. We register campaigners and regulate their spending and donations at referendums.

Our objective is to ensure integrity and transparency of campaign funding and spending for voters.

We will continue to publish updates, providing additional guidance for campaigners on any changes to the rules, best practice for campaigners and key dates and deadlines.

About this update

This update covers:

- referendum timetable
- guidance for campaigners
- registering as a campaigner
- designated lead campaign groups
- EU Referendum public information booklet information
- where you can find further information

Referendum timetable

There is a formal campaign period called the referendum period when the rules on spending will apply. The referendum period starts on 15 April and ends at the end of polling day on 23 June.

Pre-poll reporting

In the run up to the referendum, registered campaigners (other than registered political parties, but including minor parties) must report certain donations and loans to us. This is called pre-poll reporting.

The first pre-poll reporting period for registered campaigners is 1 February – 21 April 2016. The deadline for the first pre-poll report is **28 April 2016**.

Further information on pre-poll reporting is available on our [website](#). The pre-poll reporting dates for registered campaigners are:

Reporting period	Deadline for pre-poll reports
1 February – 21 April	28 April
22 April – 12 May	19 May
13 May – 9 June	16 June
10 June – 22 June	29 June

The referendum timetable and reporting deadlines for registered campaigners are available on our [website](#).

Guidance for campaigners

There are rules campaigners must follow in the run up to the referendum. We provide guidance to help campaigners comply with these rules.

You can find all of our guidance for the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU on this [page](#).

We have published our third stage of guidance:

- [Timetables and reporting deadlines at the EU Referendum](#)
- [Spending for EU referendum campaigners](#)
- [Working together for EU referendum campaigners](#)
- [Pre-poll reporting for EU referendum campaigners](#)
- [Public bodies and referendum material](#)
- [The EU Referendum and May 2016 elections](#)
- [Pre-poll reporting donation and loan reports for EU referendum campaigners](#) and [explanatory notes](#)

We will be publishing a factsheet that explains how the rules on referendum campaigning may apply to organisations that may be planning business as usual activities during the referendum period and other activities that relate directly or indirectly to the referendum.

Registering as a campaigners

Campaigners must not spend more than £10,000 on campaigning during the referendum period unless they have registered with us.

You can see the register of campaigners [here](#).

You can register as a campaigner either [online](#) or by completing form [EUR1](#).

Designated lead campaigners

The Electoral Commission has the statutory duty to appoint designated lead campaign groups for each side of the referendum campaign or for one side only. The designated campaigner will act as the lead campaign group on behalf of those campaigning for that outcome.

The benefits for designated lead campaign groups are:

- a spending limit of £7 million
- a free distribution of their information to voters
- referendum campaign broadcasts
- free use of certain public rooms
- publicly funded grant of up to £600,000

You can find more information on designation here: [The designation process for the EU referendum](#).

The application period for designation opened on 4 March and ends on 31 March 2016. The decision making period runs from 1 April to 14 April 2016.

After the closing date of 31 March, we will publish the names of the campaigners who have applied for designation on our [website](#). We will make no further comment on designation until we announce the decision. Our decision will be published on our website.

EU Referendum Public Information Booklet

We have published a draft of our public information booklet outlining important information for voters at the EU referendum.

The booklet will be delivered to every household in the UK between 16-21 May as part of our wider public awareness campaign which will also include TV, radio, outdoor and online advertising.

The booklet provides information on how to register, the registration deadline, how to fill in the ballot paper and details of the different voting options. In addition, each designated lead campaigner will have a page in the booklet to provide information about their campaign.

[View the draft voting guide \(England and Scotland\)](#)

[View the draft voting guide \(Northern Ireland\)](#)

[View the draft voting guide \(Wales: English\)](#)

[View the draft voting guide \(Wales: Welsh\)](#)

Where you can find more information

We are always happy to give campaigners advice on how to comply with the rules. Please contact us on 0333 103 1928

pef@electoralcommission.org.uk

Alternatively you can use the email addresses below.

- England and Gibraltar:
pef@electoralcommission.org.uk
- Scotland:
infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk
- Wales: 0333 103 1929
infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk
- Northern Ireland:
infonorthernireland@electoralcommission.org.uk

For other information about the referendum

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

- 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