Are you holding a hustings?

This factsheet is anyone holding a hustings for the elections in May 2019.

**Hustings**
A hustings is a meeting where election candidates or parties debate policies and answer questions from the audience. Hustings provide voters with an opportunity to hear the views of candidates or parties.

In many cases, spending on hustings will **not** be regulated. However, under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 or the Representation of the People Act 1983, spending on some hustings may be regulated. We do **not** regulate the conduct or management of a hustings.

**Selective and non-selective hustings**
Hustings can be ‘selective’ or ‘non-selective’.

A **non-selective hustings** is a hustings that would not reasonably be regarded as intended to influence voters to vote for or against particular political parties or candidates. For example, where you have invited all the parties standing candidates in your electoral area or you have impartial reasons for not inviting some of the parties.

Your spending on a non-selective hustings is not regulated and will not count towards any spending limits or registration thresholds.

A **selective hustings** is a hustings that would reasonably be regarded as intended to influence voters to vote for or against particular political parties or candidates – for example, if you invite some candidates or parties to your hustings and do not have impartial reasons for excluding the others.

Spending on a selective hustings may, in certain circumstance, be regulated and count towards your spending limit or registration threshold in the run up to an election.

In our view, your hustings will be non-selective if:

- you have invited all the candidates or parties known to be standing in the constituency, region or other electoral area, or
- you have impartial reasons for not inviting certain candidates or parties

You can choose whether your hustings is selective or non-selective.

If you hold a non-selective hustings then the spending will not be regulated.
Usually spending on a hustings is low, and it is unlikely that spending on a selective hustings alone will require you to register or reach a spending limit.

If you hold a selective hustings, you should keep a record of how much you spend, along with any other spending on regulated campaigning, and be aware of the registration thresholds and spending limits.

In May 2019 there is no requirement to register with the Electoral Commission. There are spending limits in each election.

If you spend a large amount of money on organising a selective hustings, or you engage in further regulated campaign activity during a regulated period, then you may need to be aware of the spending limits. These can be found in our candidate guidance for the relevant election.

How we can help

You can view our full range of guidance and up-to-date resources on our website.

You can contact us on the phone number below or via email on the address below. We are here to help, so please get in touch.

Call us on 0333 103 1928
Or email: pef@electoralcommission.org.uk

Visit us at http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk

We welcome feedback on our guidance – just email us at: pef@electoralcommission.org.uk

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