

Campaign monitoring for the 2017 UK Parliamentary general election

As the independent regulator of the political finance rules, we:

- make sure people understand the rules and try to prevent people breaking the rules
- are able to investigate and impose sanctions when people do break the rules
- publish data on political funding and spending

This briefing note sets out our approach to campaign monitoring in the lead up to the next UK Parliamentary general election, which will take place on 8 June 2017.

Monitoring compliance with the rules on campaign spending and political donations is part of our statutory remit. The purpose of this work is to promote compliance with the law by:

- raising campaigners' awareness of the rules and our role in applying them
- identifying emerging issues and opportunities for us to offer advice and guidance to those we regulate or, if necessary, consider enforcement action
- obtaining information on activity that we may refer to when looking at the financial disclosures submitted by campaigners

Monitoring will also inform our wider work to ensure and enforce compliance with the rules, and form part of our evidence base for post-election analysis. It will help us understand the effectiveness of the rules on campaign spending and donations, and how they have affected trust and participation in the democratic process.

As part of this project we will monitor campaigning across the UK by political parties, non-party campaigners and candidates.

Our monitoring will use various sources, including press, broadcast and online media. It started from 19 April 2017, the date the UK Parliament voted to hold the election.

We will report after the poll on issues or concerns identified by our monitoring work.

To find out more about how we regulate campaigning at elections please call our party and election finance information line 0207 271 0616 or email pef@electoralcommission.org.uk.

Guidance for those campaigning at the elections is available on our website at <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/party-or-campaigner>