

EU referendum: Campaigner update No. 8

April 2016

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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:

- appointment of designated lead campaigners
- start of referendum period
- register of campaigners
- where you can find further information

Appointment of designated lead campaigners

Under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA), we have the responsibility for designating lead campaigners for each outcome at a referendum. PERA sets out a statutory test we must apply when assessing applications to be a lead campaigner.

Following an application process, today we appointed 'Britain Stronger in Europe' ([The In Campaign Ltd](#)) and '[Vote Leave Ltd](#)' as the designated lead campaigners representing each side of the debate.

'The In Campaign Ltd' will be the lead campaign group for the 'Remain' side. 'Vote Leave Ltd' will be the lead campaign group for the 'Leave' side.

Our press release is available [here](#) and papers relating to our decision and copies of the applications made by all applicant organisations, are available on our website [here](#). The applicants' campaign strategies and all personal data have been redacted from these papers.

As the lead campaigner, they will both have access to the following benefits:

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

The grant is administered by the Electoral Commission. The lead campaigners will be allowed to spend the grant on certain items to support their campaigns. The eligible items are:

- certain kinds of administration costs associated with setting up and running a referendum campaign and for complying with regulatory reporting requirements
- costs associated with the TV broadcasts and free mailing to voters that they are entitled to as lead campaigners
- costs for translating from English into Welsh or vice versa
- reasonable expenses attributable to an individual's disability
- costs for protecting people or property at rallies/public events

Start of the referendum period

The referendum period starts on Friday 15 April and ends on polling day, 23 June 2016. This is the time period when the rules on spending apply. There are rules that registered campaigners must follow on campaign spending, donations and reporting donations and loans to us. This also includes the rules on

imprints on referendum material. You can find more information about the rules on our [website](#).

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

Registered campaigners must not spend more than the following amounts:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Lead campaigner | £7m |
| Political parties with: | |
| >30% share of the vote | £7m |
| >20-30% share of the vote | £5.5m |
| >10-20% share of the vote | £4m |
| >5-10% share of the vote | £3m |
| <5% share of the vote | £700k |
| Other registered campaigners | £700k |

If you work together with other non-lead campaign groups then the combined amount of referendum spending you each incur will count towards the spending limits for **each** campaigner involved. When you work together in a joint campaign with a designated lead campaigner all the spending counts towards the lead campaign group's spending limit.

Working together means spending money as a result of a coordinated plan or arrangement between two or more campaigners during the referendum period that is intended to, or is otherwise in connection with, promoting or bringing about a particular outcome in the referendum. You can find out more information about the working together rules on our [website](#).

Register of campaigners

We keep a public register of all referendum campaigners that register with us. You can view the register of permitted participants on our [website](#).

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 or at 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