

## EU referendum: Campaigner update No. 10

June 2016

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The referendum on the UK's membership of the EU was 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 have published updates to provide additional guidance for campaigners on the rules on spending and donations, best practice for campaigners and key dates and deadlines.

## About this update

This update covers:

- Referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union
- paying invoices for campaign spending and leave to pay
- spending returns
- campaign reporting deadlines
- unregistered referendum campaigners
- where you can find further information

## Referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union

Our focus is on voters and on putting their interests first.

Our objectives for the referendum were that:

- it should be well-run and produce results that are accepted
- there should be integrity and transparency of campaign funding and expenditure

The Chief Counting Officer for the EU referendum, Jenny Watson who is also the Chair of the Electoral Commission declared the official result of the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union on Friday 24 June.

The total number of ballot papers counted was 33,577,342

The declaration has confirmed that 48.1% of votes (16,141,241) were cast in favour of REMAIN and 51.9% of votes (17,410,742) were cast in favour of LEAVE.

This means that the UK has voted to LEAVE the European Union.

The national turnout figure was 72.2%

You can find a detailed breakdown of the voting on our website [here](#).

As part of our responsibilities in delivering the referendum, the Electoral Commission has registered 119 campaigners for the referendum. You can see a list of them [here](#).

We have published three pre-poll reports (with the fourth to follow on Wednesday 6 July) and you can see the reports [here](#).

We have provided advice and guidance to campaigners and members of the public, answering over two thousand queries. Our advice service for the referendum will continue to operate and you can contact us by [email](#) or by phone. You can find our contact details at the end of this update.

We hope that you have found our guidance, advice and these updates useful and we would appreciate any feedback that you may have.

We will publish a report on the administration of the referendum and referendum campaign spending later in the year.

## Reporting deadlines

Registered campaigners have a number of remaining reporting requirements.

## Paying invoices for campaign spending and leave to pay

There are deadlines for referendum campaigners to receive and pay invoices for campaign spending. The last day for receiving invoices from your suppliers is **25 July 2016**. The last day for paying invoices is **22 August 2016**.

You must **not** pay an invoice if:

- you receive it after 25 July 2016, or
- you receive it on or before 25 July 2016 but fail or refuse to pay it by the deadline of 22 August 2016

unless there is a court judgment or order enabling you to do so.

For further information on paying invoices for campaign spending, please see our guidance: [Paying invoices for campaign spending](#).

## Spending returns

Registered referendum campaigners must submit a spending return to us if they have spent over the registration threshold of £10,000.

If you have spent £10,000 or less during the referendum period, you must make a declaration to us that your total spending was less than £10,000. You can do this online or by completing [EUR3A – declaration of spending less than £10,000](#).

If you spent more than £10,000 campaigning during the referendum period you must report your campaign spending to us in your campaign spending return. Your

spending return must include the following:

- records of your donations and spending
- invoices and receipts for any payment over £200
- a declaration from the ‘responsible person’ to say that the return is complete and correct

If you worked together with another campaigner you must include the following details:

- records of your spending
- invoice and receipts for any payment you made over £200
- the name of the other campaigner
- the total amount incurred by the other campaigner in the campaign

You can complete your return [online](#) or by completing and returning form [EUR3B - referendum campaign spending return](#). For further information on completing your spending return via our secure online system, please see our PEF Online user guides: [Creating and submitting an EU referendum donations and loans return](#), and [Creating and submitting an EU Referendum spending return](#).

You must also report donations and loans in your campaign spending return. For further information see our guidance on [Donations for EU referendum campaigners](#) and [Loans for EU referendum campaigners](#).

For further information on completing your campaign expenditure return, please see our guidance on [Spending for EU referendum campaigners](#) and [Campaign expenditure return explanatory notes](#).

## Campaign reporting deadlines

If you have spent £250,000 or less on referendum campaign spending, you must report your campaign expenditure return by **23 September 2016**.

If you have spent over £250,000 on your referendum campaign spending, you must report your campaign expenditure return by **23 December 2016** with the inclusion of a qualified auditor's report.

## Unregistered referendum campaigners

Unregistered referendum campaigners, who did not work together with another campaigner and did not spend more than £10,000 during the referendum period are not required to report to us after the referendum.

If you need more information on the rules of working together, please see our guidance: [Working together for EU referendum campaigners](#).

## 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](mailto:pef@electoralcommission.org.uk)

Alternatively you can use the email addresses below.

- England and Gibraltar: [pef@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:pef@electoralcommission.org.uk)

- Scotland: [infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk)
- Wales: 0333 103 1929 [infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk)
- Northern Ireland: [infonorthernireland@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infonorthernireland@electoralcommission.org.uk)

## For other information about the referendum

On our website, [www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://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