

UK Parliamentary general election 2015: Spending calculator

You should read the related guidance before using this calculator.



Who this calculator is for

This calculator is for registered and unregistered non-party campaigners who are planning to spend money on 'regulated campaign activity'. Regulated campaign activity is activity that can reasonably be regarded as intended to influence voters to vote for or against political parties or categories of candidates. For more information on regulated campaign activity, see [Overview of non-party campaigns](#). For more information about whether you need to register as a non-party campaigner, see [Registering as a non-party campaigner](#).

Related guidance:

- [Overview of non-party campaigning](#)
- [Managing campaign spending](#)
- [UK Parliamentary General Election: focused constituency campaigning](#)

Introduction

When planning your campaign, you should be aware of all the spending limits that apply and the requirement to attribute spending across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and to parliamentary constituencies.

If you do not follow the attribution rules carefully, you may breach the spending limits.

You should plan your spending in advance and calculate the proportion of spending that will need to be attributed to different parts of the UK or a particular constituency **before** spending is incurred.

You can use the calculator to work out how your spending will count against the spending limits in each part of the UK and in each constituency. If you are a registered non-party campaigner the calculator can help you to calculate how to attribute your spending.

How to use the calculator

Choosing the correct worksheet

There are two worksheets in the calculator for:

- unregistered non-party campaigners, and
- registered non-party campaigners

There are different rules which apply to unregistered and registered non-party campaigners. You should select the worksheet which applies to you.

Entering an amount of spending

You can only enter information in the white and blue cells of both worksheets.

You can enter an amount of spending in any white cell. The grey cells with orange amounts will automatically calculate how your spending counts against each constituency and each part of the UK.

In the registered non-party campaigner worksheet, the grey cells with orange amounts will also automatically calculate how your spending is attributed to each relevant constituency and each relevant part of the UK.

When you have entered your planned spending amounts, the status box at the top of each worksheet will tell you:

- if you must register
- whether you must report spending to us
- whether your planned spending will breach a spending limit

This information will be based on the amounts that you enter and you should read our full guidance to ensure that you are following the rules.



Unregistered non-party campaigners

There are two types of spending on regulated campaign activity:

Type of spending	Guidance page reference
Campaigning affecting one or more parts of the UK	Managing non-party campaign spending pages 21-22
Campaigning affecting one or more UK parliamentary constituencies ('focused constituency campaigning')	Managing non-party campaign spending page 24 UK Parliamentary general election 2015: Focused constituency campaigning

The spending calculator allows you to enter an amount for each type of spending. It is important that you enter an amount of spending under the correct type. If you do not plan to have both types of spending, you should ensure that '£0.00' is entered in the relevant white cells.

Arrows illustrate how your spending is counted against a particular spending limit. Solid red arrows show how your spending counts against either the constituency spending limit or the spending limit in a particular part of the UK. Dotted red arrows show how your spending on focused constituency campaigning counts against the spending limit in the relevant part of the UK.

You should plan your spending on regulated campaign activity carefully in order to avoid inadvertently breaching the constituency spending limit or any of the spending limits in a particular part of the UK. The calculator will indicate when the amounts you have entered will breach a limit in this way.



Important

Registered non-party campaigners

There are four types of spending on regulated campaign activity:

Type of spending	Guidance page reference	Spending calculator reference
UK-wide campaigning	Managing non-party campaign spending page 23	Spending type 1
Campaigning in one or more separate parts of the UK	Managing non-party campaign spending pages 22-23	Spending type 2
Campaigning across two or three parts of the UK	Managing non-party campaign spending pages 22-23	Spending type 3
Campaigning affecting one or more UK parliamentary constituencies ('focused constituency campaigning')	Managing non-party campaign spending page 24 UK Parliamentary general election 2015: Focused constituency campaigning	Spending type 4

The spending calculator allows you to enter an amount for each type of spending. It is important that you enter an amount of spending under the correct type. If you do not plan to have all four types of spending, you should ensure that '£0.00' is entered in the relevant white cells.

Arrows illustrate how your spending is counted against a particular spending limit. Red arrows show how your spending counts against either the constituency spending limit or the spending limit in a particular part of the UK. Blue arrows show how your spending at each level is attributed to both the relevant part of the UK and to constituencies located in those parts.

If you plan to spend on a campaign across all four parts of the UK, enter your spending amount in the calculator under spending type 1 (UK-wide spending).

If you plan to campaign in separate parts of the UK, enter your spending amount in the calculator under spending type 2.

If you plan to spend on one campaign across two or three parts of the UK, enter your spending amount in the calculator under

spending type 3. You should only use level 3 for spending on one campaign across two or three parts of the UK. You can enter type 3 spending by first selecting the relevant parts of the UK in the blue cells. The parts of the UK that you select must be those parts that are affected by your campaign.

You should plan your spending on regulated campaign activity carefully in order to avoid inadvertently breaching the constituency spending limit or any of the spending limits in a particular part of the UK. The calculator will indicate when the amounts you have entered will breach a limit in this way.



Important

You must report your attributed spending to us. The relevant cells of the calculator will turn yellow when you must report your spending.

If your entered spending means that you are required to report that spending in respect of:



Important

- each part of the UK, and
- one or more constituencies,

a yellow downward arrow will appear to the right of your reportable spend for that part of the UK. This is to alert you that you must report spending in respect of that part **and** in respect of one or more constituencies in that part. You may need to scroll down to identify those constituencies.

You should not rely solely on the calculator to decide which spending you must report to us. For more information on reporting requirements, see our [Managing campaign spending](#) guidance.

Exceeding a spending limit

Exceeding a spending limit is an offence.



Important

If you are an unregistered non-party campaigner, exceeding a registration threshold in any part of the UK is also an offence. The unregistered non-party campaigner worksheet will indicate that you have exceeded a spending limit if:

- you enter an amount more than the registration threshold in any part of the UK. The registration threshold is noted in column B of the unregistered non-party campaigner worksheet

- you enter an amount more than the spending limit in any part of the UK. The spending limit for each part is noted in column C
- you enter an amount more than the constituency spending limit in any constituency. The constituency spending limit for each constituency is noted in column C.

If you are a registered non-party campaigner, the registered non-party campaigner worksheet will indicate that you have exceeded a spending limit if:

- you enter an amount more than £390,000 at a UK-wide level; or
- you enter an amount more than the spending limit in any part of the UK. The spending limit for each part is noted in column J
- you enter an amount more than the constituency spending limit in any constituency. The constituency spending limit for each constituency is noted in column J

You should not rely on the calculator to tell you whether or not you have exceeded a registration threshold or spending limit. For more information on offences and our approach to enforcement, please see our guidance on our website.

If you enter your planned spending into the calculator, and the calculator indicates that you have exceeded a spending limit, you must reduce your planned spending on regulated campaign activity.