

[REDACTED]

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**From:** FOI  
**Sent:** 30 November 2020 08:28  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FOI 143-20 - Response

Dear [REDACTED],

**Our Ref: FOI-143-20**

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 18 November 2020 and received by the Commission on 19 November 2020.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and has done so within the statutory timeframe of twenty working days.

Your request is shown below followed by our response.

*Please provide the following:*

- 1. The exact mechanism and/or legislation which provides for the Labour Party to stand a candidate under the banner "Scottish Labour Party".*
- 2. Provide clarification whether Accounting Units can be used on the ballot in place of registered Party names.*
- 3. Please provide all the registered names which are presently held by the EC which could be used by the Labour Party, in Scottish Elections.*
- 4. Please provide same information as question 3, but for the Conservative Party.*
- 5. Please state the exact wording of the legislation which specifies how a Party Name must appear on the ballot paper.*

**Our response is as follows:**

The Freedom of Information Act gives people the right to request information held by public bodies and access that information, unless a relevant exemption applies. Most of the information you have requested does not constitute recorded information, or can be obtained in the public domain. However, for your assistance, we have responded to your questions accordingly.

1. Schedule 2, Part 2, Paragraph 4(7) of [The Scottish Parliament \(Elections etc.\) Order 2015](#) allows for candidates standing on behalf of registered parties to prefix the name of the party with the word "Scottish" if the name does not already include that word.
2. There is no provision for parties to use the name of an Accounting Unit on the ballot paper in place of the party's registered name for any kind of election. However, parties are entitled to register up to twelve descriptions with the Electoral Commission which may be used on the ballot paper, alongside or instead of the party name. There are different rules for different elections which govern how party descriptions can appear on the ballot paper.

These rules are set in legislation by the relevant parliament and not by the Electoral Commission.

3. The names and descriptions which can be used by candidates standing on behalf of the Labour Party at relevant UK elections can be found on the [public register](#).
4. Likewise, the details for the Conservative and Unionist Party can be found [here](#).
5. As noted above, the legislative rules are different for each type of election. The rules for how a name appears on ballot papers for the Scottish Parliament election, for example, are set out in the link provided in the answer to question 1 above where you will be able to find the exact wording.

The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority and I trust that this information satisfies your request.

If you are not satisfied with this response, please note that the Commission operates a review procedure, details of which can be found on the Commission website at: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/freedom-information/make-a-freedom-information-request>.

Please also note that if you have exhausted all internal Commission review procedures and you are still not satisfied you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner. Details of this procedure can be found on the ICO website: <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

Information Officer  
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**The Electoral Commission**  
[electoralcommission.org.uk](https://electoralcommission.org.uk)