From: FOI
Sent: 16 February 2021 18:30
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 005-21 - Response

Categories: Transferred to Skynet

Dear [redacted]

Our Ref: FOI 005-21

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act dated 19/01/2021.

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.

I would like to request all information relating to the Alliance for Unity and All for Unity registrations applications, deliberations and decisions taken by the Electoral Commission in regards to these applications. I would also like to request information regarding any objections received. Additionally, if it is possible could you confirm if the parties involved in both applications are seeking to apply again. I understand data protection issues faced, therefore I would be happy for you to redact any sensitive information.

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested. Of the information we hold, we are able to release some of it to you.

For clarity, we have applied a broad interpretation to your request as encompassing all 'information'. We have, however, interpreted 'relating to' more narrowly. This was to ensure we could respond to your request, and to avoid any risk of the time we needed to identify the relevant information exceeding the statutory limit. We interpreted 'relating to' as meaning direct relevance. On that basis it did not include, for example, documents in which the party was mentioned but only in passing or as part of a list of parties.

For your information, All For Unity are a registered party as of 04 February 2021. You can see their entry on the register here, and you can see a full record of our registration decisions on this webpage.
However, we are not able to comply fully with your request for the following reasons.

Exemption under section 40(2):
Information is exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) where release of the information would breach one of the data protection principles in the GDPR. One of the principles states that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully.

Some of the information contained in the requested information falls within the description of personal data because the information relates directly to an identifiable living individual. Disclosure of this information would breach the first data protection principle, which states the information must be processed fairly and lawfully. Any personal data, that is not already in the public domain (such as the names of registered party officers), has been redacted.

Under this provision, we have also redacted the names of Commission staff below Head level. This is because those members of staff have a reasonable expectation that their personal details will not be made public.

Exemption under section 42:
Information is exempt under section 42 of the FOIA if that information is subject to legal professional privilege. This is in place to protect confidential communications between lawyers and clients.
Some of the information and correspondence we hold in relation to this request contains legal advice provided to the Commission.
The exemption under section 42 is a qualified exemption, and so is subject to the public interest test. There is a public interest in transparency and accountability. However, it is also in the public interest to safeguard the confidential nature of legally privileged communications and advice so as to allow openness in all communications between client and lawyer to ensure access to full and frank legal advice which in turn is fundamental to the administration of justice. There is an inherent and strong public interest in maintaining this privilege given it is in the public's interest to ensure openness in order to safeguard access to fully informed, realistic and frank legal advice. The maintenance of this privilege, as the Information Commissioner's Office and the courts have stated, helps ensure the administration of justice and the effective undertaking of public policy.

Having carefully weighed the public interest relating to possible disclosure of the information requested under section 42, we are satisfied that it is not appropriate at this time to disclose the information that the Commission holds. The Commission is satisfied that maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure, and we will not release this information as part of your request.

The Commission is sending you documents/attachments via our secure document sharing system, Objective Connect.

You will receive an 'Invitation to Objective Connect Email Notification' (sent to the inbox of [redacted]). This notification will contain a link to enable you to start accessing your information. Please find below details on how to get to the specific area we have set up for your documents.

1. Click on the link in the email.
2. You will be prompted to set up your username and password. Your username will be your email address, and your password can be whatever you like.
3. With your username and password, enter both details at the login screen and click 'login'.
4. You will now see your personal page, which will show the Share 'FOI – 156-20'
5. By clicking on the name of the share, you will find your documents.
6. You may view any of these documents
7. In addition you may download a copy to your personal computer by selecting the 'download' option and then 'save'.

This service will be closed one month from our response date, this is the **16 March 2021, at 5pm.**

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: 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 Team
The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

ALLIANCE 4 UNITY CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

a) The name of the Party shall be “Alliance 4 Unity” (hereafter referred to as ‘The Alliance).

2. OBJECTIVES

a) The Alliance believes that Scotland’s future is within Great Britain, and is opposed to Scottish Independence/Separatism. To this end it shall be the policy of the Alliance to oppose a second Scottish Independence referendum, and shall campaign to ensure that Scotland remains a part of Great Britain.

b) In pursuit of these objectives the Alliance will at all times adhere to the principle of full equality before the law. The Alliance shall conduct itself and its affairs in such a way that it does not discriminate against or in favour of any person on the grounds of their race, religion, gender, ethnic origin, education, beliefs, sexual orientation, class, social status or any other basis prescribed by law. Further the Alliance shall at all times adhere to the principles of the rule of law, liberty, democracy and respect for the human rights and the essential, traditional freedoms of the people of Great Britain.

3. MEMBERSHIP

a) The Alliance shall only comprise of members who shall have paid a subscription agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

b) All members of the Alliance shall have the right to attend at any General Meeting (which includes any Annual or Special General Meetings). All members of the Alliance must have been a member prior to the calling of a meeting in order to gain voting rights.

c) All members of the Alliance shall not behave in a bullying, intimidating or violent manner, and will be bound by the rules of the constitution

d) Harassment, dishonesty, bullying and violence have no place in the Alliance.

e) Any person who has ceased to be a member of the Alliance, for whatever reason, shall have no rights or interest in the funds of the Alliance.

f) Any person wishing to join the Alliance must apply, and the board will have absolute discretion in approving or rejecting any application.

i. The board will make a decision based upon whether an application is in line with the values and objectives of the Alliance.

4. OFFICERS

a) The Alliance will, at its Annual General Meeting, elect a Leader who shall be a member of the Board.

b) The Leader shall chair and conduct the business of the Annual General Meeting, unless otherwise agreed by the Board, and act as the Returning Officer in all elections for Officers of the Alliance.

c) The Board of the Alliance shall comprise of:-
i. A Leader
ii. A Nominating Officer
iii. A Treasurer
iv. An Additional Officer

d) The Management Team may also comprise of:-
i. A Policy and Campaign Officer
ii. A Communications Officer

e) The officers of the Alliance shall be individually elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

f) If an Officer position becomes vacant, for any reason, the Leader has the power to appoint a successor until the next Annual General Meeting.

g) The Officers of the Alliance shall have day to day responsibility for the management and administration of the Alliance.

h) The Officers of the Alliance shall be responsible for implementing any decisions of the board. The actions of the Officers shall not be inconsistent with any objectives of the Alliance.

5. BOARD
a) The Alliance shall have a governing body which shall be known as the Board. It will comprise the following officers:-
i. The Leader
ii. The Nominating Officer
iii. The Treasurer
iv. The Additional Officer (if applicable)
v. A Policy and Campaign Officer (where position is not vacant)
vi. A Communications Officer (where position is not vacant)

b) Meetings of the board are called as when required, at the discretion of the leader.

c) For the purposes of the Alliance's finances, the Alliance financial year will end of the 31st December each year.

d) The Board will make provision for the collection of subscriptions in respect of the Alliance membership.

e) The Board has the power (subject to any resolutions made at Annual General Meetings or Special General Meetings) to deal with all matters affecting the Alliance and its membership as it sees fit.

6. FUNDS OF THE ALLIANCE
a) The funds of the Alliance shall be under the control of the Board.

b) The Board shall appoint not less than two signatories for the Alliance Bank Accounts.

c) All bank drafts, cheques or similar documents shall always require the signature of one authorised signatory.

d) The Board may alter the Alliance Financial Scheme as it sees fit.

7. NOTICE OF MEETINGS
a) The Leader of the Alliance will convene meetings in conjunction with the board, and give notice of meetings, stating the time and venue for the meeting, accompanied by the minutes of the prior meeting.

8. AGENT
a) In election periods, the board shall appoint an agent, who shall supervise the work of the Alliance's organisation throughout Scotland.

b) At the discretion of the Board, the Agent may receive expenses incurred on behalf of the Alliance.

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
a) The Annual General Meeting of the Alliance shall be held in January every year, by direction of the Leader.

b) It will receive and adopt the audited accounts of the Alliance.

c) It will elect officers for the forthcoming year.

d) It will appoint an auditor to certify the accounts.

e) At the absolute discretion of the leader, it will transact other business brought before it.

f) Notice of the Annual General Meeting will be given to every member of the Alliance at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the meeting.

g) The notice of the meeting shall require nominations for officers and other vacancies to be made and seconded not later than five days prior to the day of the meeting.

h) If no nomination for a particular office or vacancy is received, nominations made for the respective office or vacancy made at the meeting will be deemed valid.

10. SPECIAL AND GENERAL MEETINGS
a) (Special) General Meetings of the Alliance shall be called by the Leader and notice shall be given in writing to every member of the Alliance.

b) If any member of the Alliance fails to receive proper or adequate notice of the meeting, such shall not prevent the holding of the meeting or invalidate any resolutions made or elections undertaken at it.

11. QUORUM
a) For all General Meetings of the Alliance, the quorum shall not be less than four members of the Alliance.
b) The quorum of the Board shall be one third of their respective members.

c) In the event of an in quorate meeting of the Board, the meeting may proceed and be considered as quorate for all relevant purposes provided that all officers registered with the Electoral Commission are present.

d) In the event that a General Meeting of the Alliance shall be or become inquorate, another meeting shall be called not less than 7 days or more than 14 days from the date of the inquorate meeting.

12. VOTING AT MEETINGS

a) At all meetings of the Alliance, including meetings of the Board, voting shall be by a show of hands.

b) If the Leader at their discretion so directs, the vote shall be by secret ballot.

c) Any motion submitted at any meeting of the Alliance, including meetings of the board, shall be carried on majority vote.

d) Any member should not take opposition or defeat in a vote regarding their views as personal slight or criticism.

e) The Leader shall have a casting vote in all cases where voting is declared equal.

13. SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

a) The Alliance's candidates will be decided by a resolution of the Board.

14. FINANCIAL DETAILS

a) The Alliance committee will operate a bank, Building Society or Credit Union account on behalf of the party.

b) The treasurer of the Alliance and any accounting units (where applicable) must maintain proper financial records.

c) Under PPERA, the Alliance, as a registered political party, must comply with financial regulations and reporting requirements. The responsibility for compliance with PPERA and our financial scheme is placed upon the treasurer of the day.

d) If the Alliance is dissolved, the members will decide if any remaining funds will be redistributed amongst the membership or donated to a local good cause.

e) Accounts will be produced and presented to the Alliance at the end of each financial year, set out in the financial scheme as the 31st December of each year.

15. INTERPRETATION

a) The interpretation of these rules is vested in the Board of the Alliance.

b) The Board has the power to deal with any matter not provided for in these rules.

16. ALTERATION OF THE RULES

a) At the Board’s discretion, a General Meeting of the Alliance shall have the power to amend, add to or rescind the rules of the Alliance by a vote in favour of such a resolution consisting of not less than two-thirds of those present and voting at the meeting

b) Notice of proposed alterations must reach the Leader of the Alliance in writing at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

c) Notice of the proposed alteration must be given to members of the Alliance seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

Financial scheme

Alliance 4 Unity

Introduction

1.1 This scheme sets out how Alliance 4 Unity ('the party') will organise its financial affairs to comply with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 ('the Act').

Constitution

1.2 A copy of Alliance 4 Unity's constitution, setting out our structure and organisation, and how we take decisions about the management of the party, is attached to this scheme or has been provided separately to the Electoral Commission.

Accounting units

1.3 The Alliance 4 Unity does not wish to register any separate accounting units with the Commission.

Organisations within the party

1.4 For the purpose of compliance with the Act, the financial affairs of any local branches or affiliated organisations of the party, whether currently existing or to be established in future, will be wholly controlled by the party treasurer.

Financial year

1.5 The party's financial year will run from 1 January to 31 December.

Role of the party treasurer

1.6 **Marjorie Torrance,** the registered treasurer of Alliance 4 Unity is responsible for the whole party's compliance with the requirements of the Act, including the following:

Annual accounts

1.7 The Alliance 4 Unity will submit our annual statement of accounts to the Commission by the required date, being 30 April of the year following the end of the financial year if both our expenditure and income are under £250,000 in that year, or 7 July of the year following the end of our financial year if either our expenditure or income exceeds £250,000 in that year. We understand that if our income or expenditure exceeds £250,000 our accounts must be submitted with an auditor's certificate.

1.8 In order to comply with this requirement, **Marjorie Torrance** has:

- put in place arrangements for ensuring that annual statements of accounts for the party are prepared, approved, audited where necessary and submitted to the Commission by the prescribed deadline for each register the party is on
- put in place accounting processes capable of meeting the Act's accounting record keeping requirements and of any regulations made by the Commission about the format of statements of accounts

Donations and Loans (regulated transactions)

1.9 Alliance 4 Unity will report the donations and loans it receives each quarter to the Commission, for each of the registers it is registered on, within the following timescales:

- quarter 1 (1 January – 31 March) by 30 April of that year
- quarter 2 (1 April – 30 June) by 30 July of that year
- quarter 3 (1 July – 30 September) by 30 October of that year
- quarter 4 (1 October – 31 December) by 30 January of the following year

1.10 In order to comply with this requirement, **Marjorie Torrance** will:

For donations:

- record information for all donations of more than £500, including:
  - amount or value of the donation
  - full name of donor
  - registered address of donor
  - company registration number (if applicable)
  - date on which the donation was received
  - date on which the donation was accepted or returned
  - information about the trust (if applicable)
- check the permissibility of any donations over £500 within 30 days of receipt
- ensure that impermissible or unidentifiable donations of more than £500 to the party are recorded as outlined above and returned to the sender or financial institution that transferred the money or, if that is not possible, surrendered to the Commission
- ensure that a submission of quarterly donation reports covering donations exceeding £7,500 (including aggregates of donations and regulated transactions) and any impermissible or anonymous donations of more than £500 is made to the Commission within the above timescales; submitting a nil return if there are no reportable donations
- provide weekly donation reports to the Commission during UK Parliamentary election campaigns if we are contesting the election

1.11 We understand that if we submit four consecutive quarterly nil donation returns, we will then be exempt from submitting further quarterly returns in respect of donations until we receive a reportable donation.

1.12 We also understand that separate quarterly donation returns must be submitted if we appear on the Northern Ireland register of political parties.

For loans (regulated transactions):

- record information about all regulated transactions (loans, credit facilities, etc.) of more than £500, including:
  - value of benefit of the transaction
  - name of all authorised participants
  - registered addresses of participants
  - company registration number (if applicable)
  - nature of the transaction
  - date agreement entered
  - the terms of the transaction
- ensure that the party does not enter into any regulated transactions over £500 with unauthorised participants
- ensure that a submission of quarterly transaction reports covering transactions exceeding £7,500 (including aggregates of donations and regulated transactions) and any void transactions or transactions of more than £500 entered into with an unauthorised participant is made to the Commission within the prescribed timescales; submit a nil return if there are no reportable transactions
- ensure weekly regulated transaction reports can be submitted during UK Parliamentary election periods if we are contesting the election

1.13 We understand that if the party has submitted four consecutive quarterly nil loans returns, we will then be exempt from submitting further quarterly returns until we enter into a reportable loan.

1.14 We also understand that separate quarterly loan returns must be submitted if we appear on the Northern Ireland register of political parties.

Campaign expenditure

1.15 The party will submit a campaign expenditure return if we have candidates contesting a UK Parliamentary election, European election, Scottish Parliamentary election, National Assembly of Wales election, or Northern Ireland Assembly election. The campaign expenditure return will be submitted within three months of the date of the election if our expenditure is less than £250,000 or within six months of the date of the election if our expenditure exceeds £250,000. We note that if our expenditure during the campaign exceeds £250,000 our return must be submitted with an auditor's certificate.

1.16 In order to ensure compliance with the legislation, **Marjorie Torrance** will:

- ensure that campaign expenditure and claims payments are duly authorised, received and paid on time and that all relevant receipts and invoices are kept
- put in place budgeting and monitoring arrangements to ensure that campaign expenditure is within the statutory limits

- ensure the compilation, auditing (if necessary) and timely submission to the Commission of a campaign expenditure return within the statutory deadlines

Referendums

1.17 If the party participates in a referendum to which Part VII of the Act applies, **Alliance 4 Unity** will develop and put in place arrangements for complying with the controls on referendum expenditure. We will do this by adapting our arrangements for the control of campaign expenditure.

Grants

1.18 **Marjorie Torrance** will ensure that any grants from the Commission to the party are spent in accordance with the conditions of grant imposed by the Commission. We agree to cooperate with any associated audit requirements specified by the Commission.

Changes to registered details

1.19 **James Giles** will ensure that the party's details that are registered with the Commission are kept up to date. We will inform the Commission of any changes to registered officers within 14 days of the change and any other changes within 28 days.

1.20 **Marjorie Torrance** will ensure that our RP8 annual confirmation of registered details and £25 fee are submitted to the Commission with the annual statement of accounts by 30 April of the following year (if our expenditure or income is less than £250,000) or by 7 July of the following year (if our expenditure or income exceeds £250,000).

1.21 We note that failure to submit our RP8 annual confirmation of registered details within the prescribed timescale will result in our statutory removal from the register of political parties. We understand that this would mean that the party would no longer be able to field candidates at elections under the party name.

Penalties and offences

1.22 **Alliance 4 Unity** understands that the Commission may impose civil penalties on parties that fail to comply with their legal obligations, including failures to submit statutory returns on time. The party also understands that failure to comply with certain legal requirements of being a registered political party is a criminal offence.

Role of other party officers

1.23 Should the appointment of the registered party treasurer terminate for any reason, then the registered party leader will, until a new treasurer is

appointed, be treated as the party treasurer and will be responsible for ensuring that the party complies with its legal obligations.

1.24 Should the treasurer whose appointment is terminated also be party leader, then the nominating officer will, until a new treasurer is appointed, be treated as the party treasurer.

1.25 Should the treasurer whose appointment is terminated also be party leader and nominating officer, then the other registered officer will, until a new treasurer is appointed, be treated as the party treasurer.

Promoting compliance with the Act

1.26 The Party will have processes in place to ensure compliance with its legal obligations. The registered treasurer, **Marjorie Torrance** will ensure that the registered leader and all other officers and members of Alliance 4 Unity have sufficient knowledge of our financial obligations under the Act to ensure that the party as a whole complies with these obligations.

Amendments to the financial scheme

1.27 The registered treasurer, **Marjorie Torrance**, will ensure that any proposed amendments to this financial scheme are submitted to the Commission for approval.

Signed

Leader and Nominating officer: [redacted] Date: 30/7/2020

Treasurer: [redacted] Date: 29/7/20

Additional officer: [redacted] Date: 30/07/2020

Application to register a political party in Great Britain

The Electoral Commission

This application was submitted electronically to the Electoral Commission on 30/07/2020 at 16:51:12.
PEF Online reference: 12579

Declaration

The party named below is applying to be a registered party in accordance with the requirements of Part II of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

I declare that Alliance 4 Unity intends to contest one or more relevant elections in Great Britain (which will not be confined to parish (England) or community (Wales) elections) and is accordingly applying to be registered in the following part(s) of the Great Britain register:

England	N	Scotland	Y	Wales	N

Parliamentary election status

Exempt from UK parliamentary elections: **N**

Signatures

Proposed registered party additional officer

I declare that I am authorised to sign this application on behalf of the above named party.

Signed

Printed name: Mr James Giles

Date: dd mm yyyy

Proposed registered party leader

I declare that I am authorised to sign this application on behalf of the above named party.

Signed

Printed name: Mr George Galloway

Date: dd mm yyyy

Proposed registered party nominating officer

I declare that I am authorised to sign this application on behalf of the above named party.

Signed

Printed name Mr George Galloway Date dd mm yyyy

Proposed registered party treasurer

I declare that I am authorised to sign this application on behalf of the above named party.

Signed

Printed name Ms Marjorie Torrance Date dd mm yyyy

Additional Officer

I declare that I have accepted the position of Additional Officer and confirm that I have not been convicted of any offence in connection with a relevant election or referendum at any time in the past five years.

Signed

Printed name Mr James Giles Date dd mm yyyy

For electoral commission use

Date of receipt dd mm yyyy Checked by

Party name

Primary name Alliance 4 Unity

Language English

Secondary name

Language

English translation

Address (party headquarters or for correspondence if no HQ)

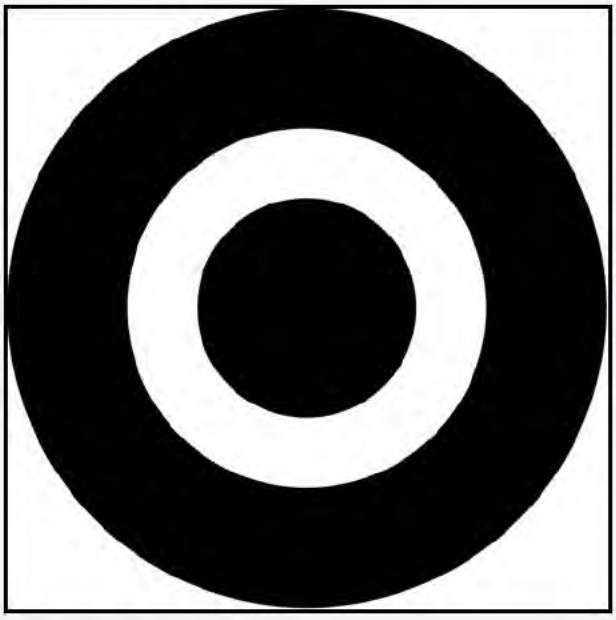
Address	Suite 2
	Fullarton House
	4 Fullarton Street
Town	Ayr
County	Ayrshire
Postcode	KA7 1UB
Country	United Kingdom

Telephone number	[redacted]	Extn	
Fax number			
Email address	[redacted]		
Website address	[redacted]		

Emblems

Emblem Id: 7626

Monochrome emblem



Alliance 4 Unity B&W Logo

Colour emblem



Alliance 4 Unity Colour Logo

Party descriptions

Description	Alliance 4 Unity - No to Separatism
Translation language	
Translation	

Party descriptions

Description	Alliance for Unity - No to Separatism
Translation language	
Translation	

Party descriptions

Description	Alliance for Unity
Translation language	
Translation	

Party descriptions

Description	Alliance for Unity (George Galloway)
Translation language	
Translation	

Party descriptions

Description	Alliance 4 Unity (George Galloway)
Translation language	
Translation	

Party officers

Party Leader

Title	Mr
First name(s)	George
Surname	Galloway
Home address	[redacted]

[redacted]

Telephone number [redacted] Extn

Fax number

Email address

If leader for a particular purpose, please specify

Additional Officer

Title Mr

First name(s) James

Surname Giles

Home address [redacted]

Town [redacted]

County [redacted]

Postcode [redacted]

Country [redacted]

Telephone number [redacted] Extn

Fax number

Email address [redacted]

Nominating Officer

Title	Mr
First name(s)	George
Surname	Galloway
Home address	[redacted]
Town	[redacted]
County	[redacted]
Postcode	[redacted]
Country	[redacted]
Telephone number	[redacted] Extn
Fax number	
Email address	

Treasurer

Title	Ms
First name(s)	Marjorie
Surname	Torrance
Home address	[redacted]
Town	[redacted]
County	
Postcode	[redacted]
Country	[redacted]
Telephone number	[redacted] Extn
Fax number	
Email address	

Financial and organisational information

An online payment of £150.00 has been initiated.

Copy of party's constitution enclosed?	☐ Yes	☐ No	(tick as appropriate)
Copy of financial scheme enclosed?	☐ Yes	☐ No	

Please return the form to:
Party and Election Finance
The Electoral Commission
City Chambers
High Street
Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

Tel: 0131 225 0200
Fax: 0131 225 0205
Email: pef@electoralcommission.org.uk
Website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Partyreg
Sent: 06 August 2020 16:32
To: 'James Giles'
Subject: RE: Alliance 4 Unity

Dear James,

I confirm receipt of your email.

A member of the Registration team will be in touch shortly.

Yours sincerely,

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: James Giles
Sent: 06 August 2020 01:12
To: PEF Inbox
Subject: Fwd: Alliance 4 Unity

Good morning,

Can someone at the very least confirm receipt of this email?

Regards
JG

Subject: RE: Alliance 4 Unity
To: @electoralcommission.org.uk>

Good evening,

I enclose a copy of our application form as required to register the Alliance 4 Unity with the Electoral Commission.

Please contact me on my mobile if there are any issues with the form.

Regards,
James Giles
Chief Organiser / Additional Officer
Alliance 4 Unity

Application to register a political party in Great Britain

The Electoral Commission

This application was submitted electronically to the Electoral Commission on 30/07/2020 at 16:51:12.

PEF Online reference: 12579

Declaration

The party named below is applying to be a registered party in accordance with the requirements of Part II of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

I declare that Alliance 4 Unity intends to contest one or more relevant elections in Great Britain (which will not be confined to parish (England) or community (Wales) elections) and is accordingly applying to be registered in the following part(s) of the Great Britain register:

England [N] Scotland [Y] Wales [N]

Parliamentary election status

Exempt from UK parliamentary elections [N]

Signatures

Proposed registered party additional officer

I declare that I am authorised to sign this application on behalf of the above named party.

Signed [redacted]

Printed name Mr James Giles Date [30] [07] [2020] dd mm yyyy

Proposed registered party leader

I declare that I am authorised to sign this application on behalf of the above named party.

Signed [redacted]

Printed name Mr George Galloway Date [30] [07] [2020] dd mm yyyy

Proposed registered party nominating officer

I declare that I am authorised to sign this application on behalf of the above named party.

Signed [redacted]

Printed name Mr George Galloway

Date 30 07 2020
dd mm yyyy

Proposed registered party treasurer

I declare that I am authorised to sign this application on behalf of the above named party.

Signed [redacted]

Printed name Ms Marjorie Torrance

Date 31 07 2020
dd mm yyyy

Additional Officer

I declare that I have accepted the position of Additional Officer and confirm that I have not been convicted of any offence in connection with a relevant election or referendum at any time in the past five years.

Signed [redacted]

Printed name Mr James Giles

Date 30 07 2020
dd mm yyyy

For electoral commission use

Date of receipt
dd mm yyyy

Checked by

Party name

Primary name Alliance 4 Unity

Language English

Secondary name

Language

English translation

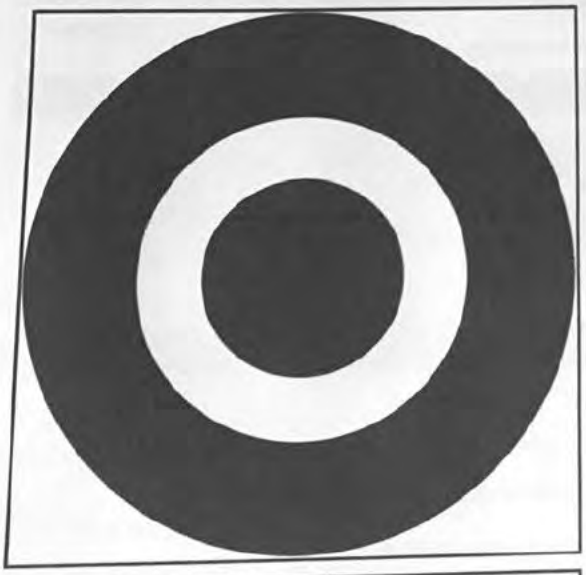
Address (party headquarters or for correspondence if no HQ)

Address	Suite 2
	Fullarton House
	4 Fullarton Street
Town	Ayr
County	Ayrshire
Postcode	KA7 1UB
Country	United Kingdom
Telephone number	[redacted] Extn
Fax number	
Email address	
Website address	

Emblems

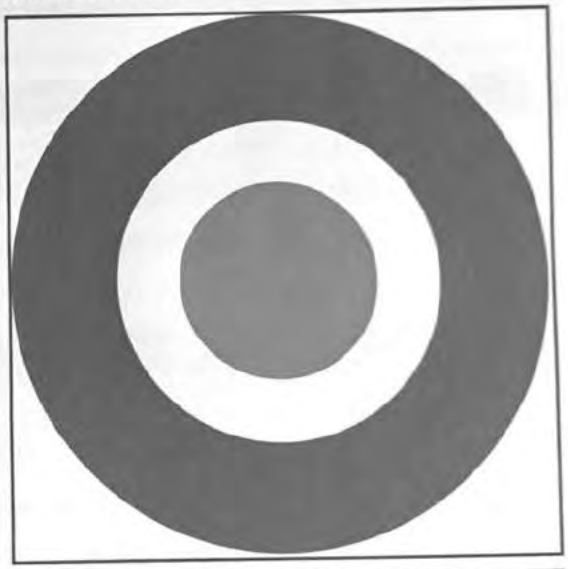
Emblem Id: 7626

Monochrome emblem



Alliance 4 Unity B&W Logo

Colour emblem



Alliance 4 Unity Colour Logo

Party descriptions

Description	Alliance 4 Unity - No to Separatism
Translation language	
Translation	

Party descriptions

Description	Alliance for Unity - No to Separatism
Translation language	
Translation	

Party descriptions

Description	Alliance for Unity
Translation language	
Translation	

Party descriptions

Description	Alliance for Unity (George Galloway)
Translation language	
Translation	

Party descriptions

Description	Alliance 4 Unity (George Galloway)
Translation language	
Translation	

Party officers

Party Leader

Title	Mr
First name(s)	George
Surname	Galloway
Home address	[redacted]

[redacted]

Telephone number

Extn

Fax number

Email address

If leader for a particular purpose, please specify

Additional Officer

Title: Mr

First name(s): James

Surname: Giles

Home address [redacted]

Town

County

Postcode

Country

Telephone number

Extn

Fax number

Email address

Nominating Officer

Title	Mr
First name(s)	George
Surname	Galloway
Home address	[redacted]
Town	
County	
Postcode	
Country	
Telephone number	Extn
Fax number	
Email address	

Treasurer

Title	Ms
First name(s)	Marjorie
Surname	Torrance
Home address	[redacted]
Town	
County	
Postcode	
Country	
Telephone number	Extn
Fax number	
Email address	

Financial and organisational information

An online payment of £150.00 has been initiated.

Copy of party's constitution enclosed? ☐ Yes ☐ No (tick as appropriate)

Copy of financial scheme enclosed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please return the form to:
Party and Election Finance
The Electoral Commission
City Chambers
High Street
Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

Tel: 0131 225 0200
Fax: 0131 225 0205
Email: pef@electoralcommission.org.uk
Website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk

E-mail

Fwd: Alliance 4 Unity

Sent Date 17/08/2020 16:02

E-mail

From [redacted] **Cc** [redacted]

To [redacted] Partyreg **Bcc**

Subject Fwd: Alliance 4 Unity

James Giles

James Giles

Alliance 4 Unity

[redacted]

a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD

[redacted]

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **James Giles** [redacted]
Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2020 at 4:37 PM
Subject: RE: Alliance 4 Unity
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>

Good evening,

I enclose a copy of our application form as required to register the Alliance 4 Unity with the Electoral Commission.

Please contact me on my mobile if there are any issues with the form.

Regards,
James Giles
Chief Organiser / Additional Officer
Alliance 4 Unity

James Giles

James Giles

Alliance 4 Unity

[redacted]

a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD

[redacted]

E-mail

Fwd: [Urgent] RE: Al...

Sent Date 17/08/2020 16:04

E-mail

From [redacted] Cc [redacted]

To [redacted]; Partyreg Bcc

Subject Fwd: [Urgent] RE: Alliance for Unity

FYI

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Marjorie Torrance**
Date: Wed, Jul 29, 2020 at 9:23 PM
Subject: Re: [Urgent] RE: Alliance for Unity
To: James Giles [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

Evening James

Made it home from [redacted] where printers and scanners were not widely available!!

Please find attached final page duly signed.

I know I sent these over separately, but in case it makes life easier to have on one email, my address is:

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Just let me know what else you need from me. Happy to meet up/catch up soon.

Kind regards

Marjorie

Regarding [redacted]

Owner [redacted]

Keywords

Duration **Priority** Normal

Due

Category **Sub-Category**

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category **PEF Category**

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
Treasurer's signature .pdf	79,686

1 - 1 of 1 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason Received

[redacted]

E-mail

RE: Alliance for Unit...

Sent Date 26/08/2020 09:07

E-mail

From [redacted] **Cc** Andy O'Neill; Andy O'Neill; [redacted];

To Alejandro Alonso-Martinez; [redacted] [redacted] **Bcc**

Subject RE: Alliance for Unity Party

Thanks guys – I suspect this will be a lively process!

From: [redacted]
Sent: 26 August 2020 09:06
To: [redacted]**@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Alejandro Alonso-Martinez** [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>;** [redacted]**@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Registration team** [redacted]**@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Cc: Andy O'Neill [redacted]**@electoralcommission.org.uk>;** [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Subject: RE: Alliance for Unity Party

Hi [redacted]

This is correct,

Cheers,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 26 August 2020 08:51
To: Alejandro Alonso-Martinez [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>; **Registration team** [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: Andy O'Neill [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Alliance for Unity Party

Hi all,

I can see that we have an application from Alliance 4 Unity on our tracker, and is marked as Pending Assessment, so the details of this should be published on our website shortly. [redacted] **is this correct?**

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Alejandro Alonso-Martinez
Sent: 26 August 2020 08:21
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; **Registration team** [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: Andy O'Neill [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Alliance for Unity Party

Thanks for letting us know [redacted]

We'll keep an eye and let you know if we receive anything.

Kind regards

Alex

Alejandro Alonso-Martinez
Head of Registration and Reporting

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 25 August 2020 17:41
To: Registration team [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: Andy O'Neill [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; **Alejandro Alonso-Martinez** [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: Alliance for Unity Party

Hi guys

I'm belatedly picking up on some coverage of a potential party that George Galloway is promoting in respect of the 2021 Scottish Parliament election. I think it's a similar premise as the Alliance for Independence (which applied to register recently) although aimed at the opposite outcome (i.e. a pro-union outcome).

I can't see anything on our website to suggest that either they had either registered or applied to register but would be grateful if you could confirm that this was the case. If they don't register and activity carries into next year then they potentially become non-party campaigners so worth keeping an eye on.

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission

[redacted]

electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

Regarding [redacted]

Owner [redacted]

Keywords

Duration **Priority** Normal

Due

Category **Sub-Category**

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category **PEF Category**

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
No E-Mail Attachment records are available in this view.	

0 - 0 of 0 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason Received

[redacted]

E-mail

Re: One more form!...

Sent Date 28/08/2020 16:09

E-mail

From [redacted] **Cc** [redacted]

To [redacted] Partyreg **Bcc**

Subject Re: One more form! CCM:0462208

Thank you [redacted] - I assume it'll be going live on the site for comments soon also.

Have a great weekend
James

On Fri, 28 Aug 2020 at 15:10, Partyreg <Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk> wrote:

> Thanks for this James.
>
> I was just about to email you about it.
>
> It seems it was only sent to you first time around.
>
> I will be in touch once a decision has been made.
>
> Yours sincerely,
>
> [redacted]
>
> [redacted]
>
> **The Electoral Commission**
>
> electoralcommission.org.uk
>
> **From: James Giles** [redacted]
> **Sent: 28 August 2020 14:43**
> **To: Partyreg** [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>; PEF Inbox** [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
> **Subject: Fwd: One more form! CCM:0462208**
>
> Hi [redacted]
>
> Did you receive this? Not sure if it only went to me...
>
> Thanks
>
> James Giles
>
> Alliance 4 Unity
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ---------
> From: **George Galloway** [redacted]
> Date: Mon, 17 Aug 2020 at 17:32
> Subject: Re: One more form! CCM:0462208
> To: James Giles [redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks. I can confirm my home address is

[redacted]

Best,

George Galloway

On 2020-08-17 17:31, James Giles wrote:

I am copying in George to this e-mail. His home address is:

[redacted]

Best wishes

James Giles

[redacted]

James Giles

Alliance 4 Unity

[redacted]

a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD

[redacted]

[redacted]

On Mon, Aug 17, 2020 at 5:14 PM Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk**> wrote:**

Dear James,

Following on from our telephone conversation.

Thank you for providing the updated documents. Could George please confirm his home address?

Next steps

[redacted]

We will publish the details of your application shortly on our 'Current Applications' **page for public comment.**

The Registration Team will assess your application against the PPERA requirements and put it to our internal Approvals Board. This Board is chaired by the Director of Regulation who takes the final decision.

We aim to process an application within approximately six weeks of receiving a complete and compliant application.

We may write to you during the assessment process seeking further information from you about the application.

Otherwise, we will contact you again once we have made a decision. In the meantime, you can find guidance in relation to registering and maintaining a party on our website**.**

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission

electoralcommission.org.uk

From: James Giles [redacted]
Sent: 17 August 2020 16:05
To: Partyreg [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Subject: Fwd: One more form!

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Marjorie Torrance
Date: Fri, Jul 31, 2020 at 1:49 PM
Subject: Re: One more form!
To: James Giles [redacted]

Afternoon James

Signed and attached.

Yes, I'm pretty flexible the first half of the week (hoping to have another short break Wed-Fri [redacted] **and I can be about from 8am till late so whenever suits you.**

Kind regards

Marjorie

From: James Giles [redacted]
Sent: 31 July 2020 13:34
To: Marjorie Torrance
Subject: One more form!

One more form now for the Electoral Commission to begin processing our application.

Your signature is needed on the second page, please.

If you're free sometime early next week, perhaps we could virtually meet via Zoom or similar? Let me know when works for you - I'm flexible. We'll need to sort out a bank account etc. for the Alliance in order to begin fundraising!

[redacted]

Best

James

Image removed by sender. Image removed by sender.

James Giles

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit http://www.symanteccloud.com

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit http://www.symanteccloud.com

Regarding	[redacted]
Owner	[redacted]
Keywords	
Duration	**Priority** Normal
Due	
Category	**Sub-Category**

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category	**PEF Category**

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

[redacted]

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
image001.gif	120
image002.jpg	465
image003.jpg	444
image004.jpg	345

1 - 4 of 4 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason Received

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04 September 2020 10:13
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Alliance 4 unity

Obvious one is Scotland in Union. Can't think if any other big ones as most that formed for indy ref have now disbanded. I'll have a think and come back to you on any others…

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04 September 2020 09:58
To: [redacted]
Subject: Alliance 4 unity

Hi [redacted]

I am currently writing the assessment for 'Alliance 4 Unity'.

For a bit of context could you please tell me if there are any widely publicised groups that are opposed to Scottish Independence/Separatism.?

Happy to give you a call if it is easier,

Cheers,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

ALLIANCE 4 UNITY

APPLICATION TO REGISTER IN GB

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Decision and Approval Board comments

Applicant party name: Alliance 4 Unity

Application type: Application to register a political party

Relevant register: GB (Scotland)

Application details and recommendation	**Decision and Approval Board comments**
Constitution (**R**) Financial scheme (**R**) Proposed party name: Alliance 4 Unity (**R**) Proposed descriptions: 1. Alliance 4 Unity – No to Separatism (**R**) 2. Alliance for Unity – No to Separatism (**R**) 3. Alliance for Unity (**R**) 4. Alliance for Unity (George Galloway) (**R**) 5. Alliance 4 Unity (George Galloway) (**R**) Proposed emblems: 1.  (**A**)	**Initial view (please add initials and date):** AON: 14/09/20 – As recommended I am minded to reject the constitution, financial scheme, proposed name and descriptions. Also as recommended, I would accept the proposed emblem. **Approval Board comments (please add initials and date):** CH 18/09/20: I agree with the recommendation and the initial view. [redacted]: 21.09.20- I agree with the recommendation and initial view NN 21.09.2020: I agree with the recommendation and initial view RT 22.09.20: I agree with the recommendations and with the initial view TH 24.09.2020: I agree with the recommendations and initial view. AAM 24/09/2020: I agree both with recommendation and initial view **Decision (please add initials and date):** AON: 28/09/20 – As recommended and having read the comments of the panel, I reject the constitution, financial scheme, proposed name and descriptions. Also as recommended, I would accept the proposed emblem if and when other parts of the application were acceptable.

Application details and recommendation	Decision and Approval Board comments

Recommendation of Registration Team member

1. In making my recommendations I have considered the requirements and statutory tests set out in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA).
2. I recommend that the Commission the party's application.
3. I recommend that the Commission **reject** party's application.
4. My recommendations in relation to each aspect of the application are set out as follows:

Constitution	Link	**R**	Does not properly set out structure and organisation of the party Inconsistent with constitution
Financial scheme	Link	**R**	Has not been adopted
Name	Alliance 4 Unity	**R**	Likely to mislead a voter as to the effect of their vote
Description 1	Alliance 4 Unity – No to Separatism	**R**	Likely to mislead a voter as to the effect of their vote
Description 2	Alliance for Unity – No to Separatism	**R**	Likely to mislead a voter as to the effect of their vote
Description 3	Alliance for Unity	**R**	Likely to mislead a voter as to the effect of their vote
Description 4	Alliance for Unity (George Galloway)	**R**	Likely to mislead a voter as to the effect of their vote
Description 5	Alliance 4 Unity (George Galloway)	**R**	Likely to mislead a voter as to the effect of their vote

Emblem 1		**A**	Satisfies requirements of an emblem

[redacted]

11 September 2020

Registration Team member assessment

Applicant party information

Link to party accounts	Website, Twitter, Facebook

5. The following proposed officer are:
    a. George Galloway– Leader
    b. George Galloway – Nominating officer
    c. Marjorie Torrance– Treasurer
    d. James Giles – Additional officer
6. The proposed leader – George Galloway, was a member of Parliament for the Labour Party and Respect Party.
7. He is also the leader and nominating officer for 'Workers Party of Great Britain'.

Application history

Link to application docs	Application, Financial Scheme, Constitution, Emblem 1, Email	
Part of the register	GB (Scotland)	
Date first lodged	**Date considered complete**	**Date published for comment**
30 July 2020	18 August 2020	28 August 2020

8. The party has been in communication with us for some time due to issues with the application.

Consideration of the Welsh Language Measure

9. As a public body operating in Wales, we are required to carry out our functions in line with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards. We are required to treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English in performing our functions in Wales.
10. I have considered these requirements insofar as they relate to our assessment of this registration application, including the application of the statutory tests under Part II of PPERA.
11. To this end, as the party has not applied to contest elections in Wales, I do not consider that these requirements have any further relevance to this application.

Intention to stand candidates

12. The party have signed a declaration to contest elections in Scotland.

Application form

Link to application form	Application form
Recommendation	**Approve**
Summary reason	As far as I am aware there are no inconsistencies with the application

13. I **am** satisfied that the party have provided the address of the headquarters, or that where they have provided a correspondence address, that there is no evidence that the party has a headquarters.
14. I **am** satisfied that the party have applied to register the overall leader of the party, or where the party does not have an overall leader, the leader is registered for a particular purpose.
15. I **am not** aware of any convictions for electoral fraud within the last 5 years for the proposed treasurer, having conducted open source searches.
16. I **am** satisfied that the officer roles applied for are compliant with PPERA.
    - The party have applied to register an additional officer. The current make-up of the party are two officers who are in the role of leader, nominating officer and treasurer. This means that the role of additional officer is not required.
17. I **am** satisfied the party has provided home addresses for all responsible officers.
    - [redacted]
18. I **am** satisfied that the application has been properly authorised.
19. I **am** satisfied the party has applied for a financial year end that matches that applied for in their financial scheme.

Constitution

Link to constitution	Constitution
Recommendation	**Reject**
Equality Act issue identified	**No**
Summary reason	Not satisfied that the constitution sets out the structure and organisation of the party.

20. Paragraph 5(1)(a), Schedule 4 of PPERA prescribes that a party must submit with their application to be registered a copy of their constitution. Section 26(9) of PPERA says that a constitution is the document or documents by which the structure and organisation of the party is determined. Accordingly, the constitution must set out sufficient detail to show the structure and organisation of the party.

21. In my view the constitution **does not** show the structure and organisation of the party.

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	**Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.**
Summary and recommendation.	22. **In my view, the constitution does not set out the structure and organisation of the party for the below reasons. It is also inconsistent with the party's financial scheme.** 23. **14(c) explains that Under PPERA, the responsibility for the party's compliance with PPERA and the party's financial scheme is placed 'upon the treasurer of the day'.** 24. **However, Section 1.19 of the financial scheme explains that 'James Giles' (additional officer) will ensure that the party's details that are registered with the Commission are kept up to date. It also states that he will inform the Commission of any changes to registered officers within 14 days and any other changes within 28 days. This is inconsistent with Section 31 of PPERA which states that it is the responsibility of the treasurer.** 25. **I cannot be satisfied that the constitution sets out the proper arrangements for the party.**

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	**Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.**
The constitution should reflect which register the party are applying to register in.	26. The party does not specifically say that it intends to contest elections in GB but this is implied by the party's statement that it will contest all elections in Scotland.
The party's aims and objectives.	27. Paragraph 2 – Objectives
A reference to an intention to stand candidates and at which elections.	28. The party does not explicitly make reference to an intention to stand elections and at which elections. However, the constitution does state that the party will campaign to make ensure that Scotland remains party of GB
The candidate selection process (or at least a statement that the party will have one).	29. 13 – Selection of candidates
The structure of the party and who is responsible for managing the party, including the responsibility of the party officers, the terms of office and procedure for change of those officers.	30. Officers. a. Alliance will at its AGM, elect a leader who will be a member of the board. b. The board will compromise; a leader, a nominating officer, treasurer and additional officer. c. Officers of the party shall be individually elected annually at the AGM d. If an officer position becomes available, the leader had the power to appoint a successor until the next AGM. e. Officers of the alliance shall be responsible for implementing any decision of the board. f. The officers of the Alliance shall be responsible for implementing decisions of the board. g. The board will compromise, the leader, nominating officer, treasurer amongst other officers. 31. Meetings of the board are called when required 32. The funds of the Alliance shall be under the control of the Board. The treasurer is a member of the board. 33. The Board may alter the Alliance Financial Scheme as it sees fit.

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	**Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.**
How the party will make and record decisions, as well as any other governance arrangements. For example the frequency, timing and type of meetings and the quorum for meetings.	34. Leader of the Alliance will convene meetings in conjunction with the board. 35. The party can call special meetings 36. Quorum shall not be less than 4 members of the alliance.
If the party has membership, and if so the process and rules governing that membership.	37. **3** – Membership a. Shall only compromise of members who have paid a subscription agreed at the AGM b. All members shall have the right to attend at any AGM – this includes Special General Meetings c. The board will make a decision based upon whether an application is in line with the values and objectives of the alliance
How the constitution can be changed and the process for dissolution of the party.	38. 16 – Alteration of the rules. 39. The constitution does not set out a dissolution process.
That the party have adopted its financial scheme / The constitution must also be consistent with a party's financial scheme	40. **14(c) explains that Under PPERA, the responsibility for the party's compliance with PPERA and the party's financial scheme is placed 'upon the treasurer of the day'.** 41. **However, Section 1.19 of the financial scheme explains that 'James Giles' (additional officer) will ensure that the party's details that are registered with the Commission are kept up to date. It also states that he will inform the Commission of any changes to registered officers within 14 days and any other changes within 28 days. This is inconsistent with Section 31 of PPERA which states that it is the responsibility of the treasurer.** 42. **I cannot be satisfied that the constitution sets out the proper arrangements for the party.** 43. Financial year will end 31 December 44. 14 – Financial details
Equalities Act consideration	45. I **have not** identified any issues in the legislation relating to equalities legislation.

Financial scheme

Link to scheme	Financial scheme
Recommendation	**Reject**
Summary reason	I am not satisfied that the financial scheme has been adopted by the party

46. Pursuant to section 26 of PPERA, a party may not be registered unless it has adopted a scheme which sets out the arrangement for regulating the financial affairs of the party for the purposes of PPERA.
47. I am of the view that the scheme **does not** set out the arrangements for regulating the financial affairs of the party of the purposes of PPERA.
    a. **Section 1.19 of the financial scheme explains that 'James Giles' (additional officer) will ensure that the party's details that are registered with the Commission are kept up to date. It also states that he will inform the Commission of any changes to registered officers within 14 days and any other changes within 28 days. This is inconsistent with Section 31 of PPERA which states that it is the responsibility of the treasurer.**
48. Based on the information available to me, I am of the view that the party **has not adopted** the scheme.

Name

Proposed name	Alliance 4 Unity
Recommendation	**Reject**
Summary reason	Likely to mislead a voter as to the effect of their vote

49. In making my recommendation I have considered the factors set out in the following paragraphs.

50. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **would be likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to result in an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.

    a. As is evident from the party's applied-for name 'Alliance 4 Unity', the applicant party is positioning itself as a party to represent other parties aligned with it, in regards to being against Scottish Independence. There are a number of pro-Scottish Union parties on the register which poses the possibility that the name 'Alliance 4 Unity' may cause a voter to be misled as to whether they are casting their vote for an alliance of these parties. I have considered this in detail below.

    b. I have identified the following parties that could be considered against Scottish Independence:

Party	sources
Scottish Unionist Party	• [redacted]
The For Britain Movement	• https://www.forbritain.uk/ • [redacted]
Conservative and Unionist Party	• https://www.ft.com/content/169e9ebc-105d-11ea-a7e6-62bf4f9e548a • https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/staggers/2020/01/conservatives-are-finally-developing-serious-plan-stop-scottish • https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-51521277
Labour party	• https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/labour-campaign-against-another-scottish-22547514

	• https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/politics/uk-politics/2242928/scottish-labour-will-oppose-second-independence-referendum-in-2021-holyrood-election-campaign/
Liberal Democrats	• https://www.libdemvoice.org/why-scottish-liberal-democrats-oppose-a-second-indyref-65361.html • https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/lib-dems-vow-vote-against-scottish-independence-every-opportunity-1401046 • https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/letters/liberal-democrats-chuka-ummuna-scotland-brexit-democracy-david-cameron-a9107006.html • https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50600212
Britannica	• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Britannica_Party

a. I am not aware of any reporting indicating that the above parties are in an alliance with the proposed party
b. I have made the consideration that an article published online on 11 July 2020 outlines that an alliance has been formed with the Workers Party of Britain. However, I have not found other sources which support this claim.
c. It is important to note George Galloway – Leader and nominating officer for the proposed party is also leader and nominating officer for the Workers Party of Britain.
d. George Galloway, the leader of the proposed party, wrote on the website of the applicant party that “Scots have the chance to elect a cross-party Alliance who will take the fight to Holyrood in 2021. All across Scotland in the regional lists, we’ll be standing candidates from all over the political spectrum – left, centre, right (and none!)”. It is clear that the party intend to be an alliance of a number of pro-union parties.
e. There is the strong probability that, although the proposed party may represent a number of pro-union parties, it will likely not represent *all* pro-union parties. My concern is that the proposed party will likely mislead voters as to the effect of their vote, who may vote for this party under the assumption that they represent a party not included in the ‘Alliance’.
f. This is partially supported by the party’s membership, as set out in the constitution. The alliance shall only compromise of members who shall have paid a subscription agreed at AGM.
    I. In my view, this presents two issues. The ‘Alliance’ encourages other parties to contest elections under its umbrella, however it will specifically exclude certain parties, likely including other pro-union parties.

II. I have made the consideration that many other parties, likely including the parties which the 'Alliance' wishes to represent, include clauses in their constitutions preventing members from being members of candidates of other parties. This would make it more likely those parties may not be involved in the Alliance.

III. In practice, this therefore means that, in practice, it is very likely that the Alliance 4 Unity will *not* represent all pro-union parties. As the parties involved in the alliance has not been set out, I must work under the assumption that it excludes the parties that have already registered pro-union descriptions or names.

IV. Were the proposed name to appear on ballot papers, I think that it is likely that voters will be misled as to the effect of their vote as they may assume 'Alliance 4 Unity' represents those parties listed in the above table when it is likely that this is not the case. There is also the likelihood that a number of parties, who have not registered specific Pro-Union related identity marks, may campaign as pro-Scottish union and again appear to be represented by 'Alliance for Unity. A voter may believe this because of the proposed party's public declaration to represent other parties and current lack of clarity as to who precisely is involved in the Alliance.

V. We have recently rejected an application to register 'Alliance for Independence'. Similarly that assessment concluded that the applied-for party name could be considered by reasonable voters to be an alliance of Pro-Independence supporting parties when that is not necessarily the case.

51. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **not likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to contradict, or hinder an elector's understanding of, any directions for their guidance in voting.

    g. Our guidance states that: "We may register a party identity mark that uses numerals in the middle of the name, depending on how they are used and whether it is likely to mislead voters." I have therefore considered whether a voter is likely to believe that this number is being used to instruct voting, particularly in an election where voters are asked to rank candidates.

    h. In my view, the numeral **4** is being used in a way that would not hinder a voter's understand of voting instructions. This is because it is being used in place of the word **For**. This usage would be easily and clearly understood by a voter. A voter would not be likely to think it related to voting instructions

52. I **am satisfied** that the proposed description amounts to a description under PPERA.

    a. The party name compromises the words 'Alliance' and 'Unity' as well as the number 4, which would commonly be understood by a voter as being an expression of the word 'for'.

53. I am of the view that registration of the identifier **is not likely** to result in electors confusing the applicant party with another registered party.

a. The words ‘Alliance’ and ‘Unity’ do not appear together on the register in Scotland. It is my view that the proposed name is unlikely to cause significant visual similarity on this basis.

54. The proposed identifier **is not more** than six words.
55. The proposed identifier **is not the same** as another identifier on the register.
56. The proposed identifier, in my view, **is not** obscene or offensive.
57. The proposed identifier, in my view, if published is **not likely** amount to the commission of an offence.
58. The proposed identifier **does not** include any script other than Roman Script.
59. The proposed identifier **does not** include a word or expression prohibited by order made by the Secretary of State.

Descriptions

Description 1

Proposed description	Alliance 4 Unity – No to Separatism
Recommendation	**Reject**
Summary reason	Likely to mislead

60. In making my recommendation I have considered the factors set out in the following paragraphs.
61. I **am satisfied** that the proposed description amounts to a description under PPERA.
62. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **would be likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to result in an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.
    a. I recommend rejecting this description on the same basis as set out for the party name above.
63. The proposed identifier **is not the same** as another identifier on the register.
64. I am of the view that registration of the identifier **is not likely** to result in electors confusing the applicant party with another registered party.
65. The proposed identifier **is not more** than six words.
66. The proposed identifier, in my view, **is not** obscene or offensive.
67. The proposed identifier, in my view, if published is **not likely** amount to the commission of an offence.

68. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **not likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to contradict, or hinder an elector's understanding of, any directions for their guidance in voting.
69. The proposed identifier **does not** include any script other than Roman Script.
70. The proposed identifier **does not** include a word or expression prohibited by order made by the Secretary of State.

Description 2

Proposed description	Alliance for Unity – No to Separatism
Recommendation	**Reject**
Summary reason	Likely to mislead a voter

71. In making my recommendation I have considered the factors set out in the following paragraphs.
72. I **am satisfied** that the proposed description amounts to a description under PPERA.
    a. It contains the entire party name.
73. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **would be likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to result in an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.
    a. I recommend rejecting this description on the same basis as set out for the party name above.
74. The proposed identifier **is not the same** as another identifier on the register.
75. I am of the view that registration of the identifier **is not likely** to result in electors confusing the applicant party with another registered party.
76. The proposed identifier **is not more** than six words.
77. The proposed identifier, in my view, **is not** obscene or offensive.
78. The proposed identifier, in my view, if published is **not likely** amount to the commission of an offence.
79. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **not likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to contradict, or hinder an elector's understanding of, any directions for their guidance in voting.
80. The proposed identifier **does not** include any script other than Roman Script.
81. The proposed identifier **does not** include a word or expression prohibited by order made by the Secretary of State.

Description 3

Proposed description	Alliance for Unity
Recommendation	**Reject**
Summary reason	Likely to mislead

82. In making my recommendation I have considered the factors set out in the following paragraphs.
83. I **am satisfied** that the proposed description amounts to a description under PPERA.
84. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **would be likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to result in an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.
    a. I recommend rejecting this description on the same basis as set out for the party name above.
85. The proposed identifier **is not the same** as another identifier on the register.
86. I am of the view that registration of the identifier **is not likely** to result in electors confusing the applicant party with another registered party.
87. The proposed identifier **is not more** than six words.
88. The proposed identifier, in my view, **is not** obscene or offensive.
89. The proposed identifier, in my view, if published is **not likely** amount to the commission of an offence.
90. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **not likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to contradict, or hinder an elector's understanding of, any directions for their guidance in voting.
91. The proposed identifier **does not** include any script other than Roman Script.
92. The proposed identifier **does not** include a word or expression prohibited by order made by the Secretary of State.

Description 4

Proposed description	Alliance for Unity (George Galloway)
Recommendation	**Reject**
Summary reason	Likely to mislead

93. In making my recommendation I have considered the factors set out in the following paragraphs.

94. I **am satisfied** that the proposed description amounts to a description under PPERA.

95. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **would be likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to result in an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.

    a. I recommend rejecting this description on the same basis as set out for the party name above.

96. The proposed identifier **is not the same** as another identifier on the register.

97. I am of the view that registration of the identifier **is not likely** to result in electors confusing the applicant party with another registered party.

98. The proposed identifier **is not more** than six words.

99. The proposed identifier, in my view, **is not** obscene or offensive.

100. The proposed identifier, in my view, if published is **not likely** amount to the commission of an offence.

101. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **not likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to contradict, or hinder an elector's understanding of, any directions for their guidance in voting.

102. The proposed identifier **does not** include any script other than Roman Script.

103. The proposed identifier **does not** include a word or expression prohibited by order made by the Secretary of State.

Description 5

Proposed description	Alliance 4 Unity (George Galloway
Recommendation	**Reject**
Summary reason	Likely to mislead

104. In making my recommendation I have considered the factors set out in the following paragraphs.

105. I **am satisfied** that the proposed description amounts to a description under PPERA.

106. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **would be likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to result in an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.

    a. I recommend rejecting this description on the same basis as set out for the party name above.

107. The proposed identifier **is not the same** as another identifier on the register.

108. I am of the view that registration of the identifier **is not likely** to result in electors confusing the applicant party with another registered party.

109. The proposed identifier **is not more** than six words.

110. The proposed identifier, in my view, **is not** obscene or offensive.

111. The proposed identifier, in my view, if published is **not likely** amount to the commission of an offence.

112. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **not likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to contradict, or hinder an elector's understanding of, any directions for their guidance in voting.

113. The proposed identifier **does not** include any script other than Roman Script.

114. The proposed identifier **does not** include a word or expression prohibited by order made by the Secretary of State.

Emblems

Emblem 1

Proposed emblem	 
Recommendation	**Approve**
Summary reason	Satisfies requirements of an emblem

115. In making my recommendation I have considered the factors set out in the following paragraphs.

116. The proposed emblem includes a design element.

117. The proposed emblem **does meet** the text size requirement set out in the Commission's guidance and is therefore likely to mislead a voter as to the effect of their vote.

118. The proposed identifier **is not the same** as another identifier on the register.

119. I am of the view that registration of the identifier **is not likely** to result in electors confusing the applicant party with another registered party.

a. I have searched the registered emblems to examine whether the proposed emblem is likely to cause confusion with another registered identity mark and could not find an emblem that could be considered confusing.

I.  - Registered identifier for Life.

II.  - Registered identity mark for Rebooting Democracy

III.  - Registered identity mark for The Democratic Party

IV.  - registered identity mark for Workers Party of Great Britain

b. There are a number of registered emblems (outline above) which predominantly share a similar feature. However, each emblem is stylistically different, i.e. shape and additional markings. I am satisfied that the emblems are not the same.

120. The proposed identifier, in my view, **is not** obscene or offensive.

121. The proposed identifier, in my view, if published is **not likely** amount to the commission of an offence.

122. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **not likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to result in an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.

123. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **not likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to contradict, or hinder an elector's understanding of, any directions for their guidance in voting.

124. The proposed identifier **does not** include a word or expression prohibited by order made by the Secretary of State.

Register searches

Table 1: Similarity score results

125. The following table lists identifiers that are similar to the proposed name or descriptions according to an electronic matching process. The higher the value, the higher the similarity.

126. I undertook the search on the GB (Scotland), register.

127. The search did not yield any results.

Table 2: Identity marks that contain words in the proposed identity marks

128. I have conducted a search to identify where words contained in the proposed descriptions and emblems appear on the registers.

129. I undertook the searches on the GB (Scotland) register.

130. The following words did not appear on the relevant register; George, Galloway, Separatism

131. I did not search the following words because they are commonly used words in the English language ‘No’ and ‘To’.

Word searched for: Alliance		
ID Mark	**Type**	**Party registered to**
Scotland's Left Alliance	Description	RISE - Respect, Independence, Socialism and Environmentalism
Scottish Democratic Alliance	Name	Scottish Democratic Alliance

Word searched for: Unity		
ID Mark	**Type**	**Party registered to**
West Dunbartonshire Community Party	Description	West Dunbartonshire Community Party
Working for our local community	Name	West Dunbartonshire Community Party

Word searched for:		
ID Mark	**Type**	**Party registered to**
Independence for Scotland Party	Name	Independence for Scotland Party
Scotland Unhyphenated People Before Party	Description	Scotland - Unhyphenated
Scotland Unhyphenated Country Before Party	Description	Scotland - Unhyphenated
Competency Standards for Election Candidates	Description	Scottish Democratic Alliance
Lower Taxes for Economic Growth	Description	Scottish Democratic Alliance
Scotland Affords High State Pensions	Description	Scottish Democratic Alliance
Scottish Taxes for Scottish Jobs	Description	Scottish Democratic Alliance
The Competence Before Age Party	Description	Scottish Democratic Alliance
Kirsten Robb for Central Scotland	Description	Scottish Green Party
Maggie Chapman for North East Scotland	Description	Scottish Green Party
Nicola for First Minister	Description	Scottish National Party (SNP)
Nicola Sturgeon for First Minister	Description	Scottish National Party (SNP)

Scottish National Party – Stronger for Scotland	Description	Scottish National Party (SNP)
Strong Voice for Scotland in Europe	Description	Scottish National Party (SNP)
Best for the Borders	Description	The Borders Party
Better for the Borders	Description	The Borders Party
Borders Party Best for the Borders	Description	The Borders Party
Borders Party Better for the Borders	Description	The Borders Party
Standing up for the Scottish Borders	Description	The Borders Party
Working for our local community	Description	West Dunbartonshire Community Party

Public comments

All comments are original and verbatim.

Go to contents

E-mail

Application decision...

Sent Date 30/09/2020 15:16

E-mail

From	Partyreg	Cc	James Giles; [redacted]
To	All For Unity (GB)	Bcc	
Subject	Application decision - Alliance 4 Unity CCM:0462315		

Dear Marjorie,

Refusal of your application to register Alliance 4 Unity

I write to inform you that we have refused your application to register Alliance 4 Unity. The reason for our decision is outlined in this message. You will also find information about making a fresh application to register if you wish to do so.

Proposed party name: Alliance 4 Unity

A proposed party name must satisfy the requirements outlined in section 28(4) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). Where a name does not satisfy these requirements, it cannot be registered. You can find out more about these tests, and how we consider them, in our guidance on identity marks.

A proposed name cannot be registered if, in our opinion, voters are likely to confuse the party with another party already registered in the same part of the UK (i.e. in England, Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland).

It was our view that a voter, if presented with this proposed name on ballot papers, would likely to be misled on the basis that they may consider it to be an alliance of some or all pro-union supporting parties.

It is clear from other parts of the application that the party intends to form alliances with other likeminded parties on this issue. However, even were it the case that it did form an alliance with some other parties, it is unlikely that it would include *all* Pro-union supporting parties and it would not be clear to a voter, from a ballot paper, which parties it may or may not represent and in our view would likely lead to then being misled as to the effect of their vote. We are

not aware that, at the point of registration, the party has formed an alliance with all union supporting parties.

The effect of their vote being, they may consider that a vote for this proposed name, is for a representative of a party they support, because of the nature of the name, when that is not necessarily the case.

On this basis, the proposed name was refused.

Proposed constitution

By law, when a party applies to be registered it must give us a copy of its constitution. Section 26(9) of PPERA defines a constitution as "the document or documents (of whatever name) by which the structure and organisation of the party is determined." A constitution must accurately determine the party's structure and organisation.

Section 14 (c) of the party's constitution explains that 'Under PPERA, the Alliance, as a registered political party, must comply with financial regulations and reporting requirements. The responsibility for compliance with PPERA and our financial scheme is placed upon the treasurer of the day.' However section 1 19 lists James Giles (additional officer) as being responsible for ensuring that the party's details that are registered with the Commission are kept up to date. That financial scheme also states that James will inform the Commission of any changes to registered officers within 14 days of the change any other changes within 28 days. This is inconsistent with section 31 (1) of PPERA which states that it is the responsibility of the treasurer.

We concluded that the documents you supplied are not a constitution as defined by PPERA. On this basis, the proposed constitution was refused.

Proposed financial scheme

Pursuant to section 26(1) of the Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act (PPERA) a party may not be registered unless it has adopted a scheme which "sets out the arrangements for regulating the financial affairs of the party for the purposes of [PPERA]." By law, therefore, applicants must give us a financial scheme that is accurate and consistent with the party's constitution, and must have adopted its scheme.

The financial scheme is not consistent with the constitution for the reasons set out above.

On this basis, we could not be satisfied that the party has adopted its scheme.

Other proposed identity marks

Because your application did not comply with the requirements of PPERA, your party's remaining identity marks did not fall for consideration and so a formal decision has not been made on these.

However, for your assistance, our minded-to view would have been as follows.

	Identity mark	Minded-to decision and rea
Description	Alliance 4 Unity – No to Separatism	Likely to mislead a voter as to For the same reasons set out f
Description	Alliance for Unity – No to Separatism	Likely to mislead a voter as to For the same reasons set out f
Description	Alliance for Unity	Likely to mislead a voter as to For the same reasons set out f
Description	Alliance for Unity (George Galloway)	Likely to mislead a voter as to For the same reasons set out f to mislead a voter as to the eff same reasons set out for the p
Description	Alliance 4 Unity (George Galloway)	Likely to mislead a voter as to For the same reasons set out f
Emblem	 image003.png	Minded-to approve

Next Steps

It is open to your party to submit a fresh application. As with all applications we will consider whether it meets the statutory requirements in PPERA.

You won't have to pay a further application fee if you submit an application to us within one calendar month of this message. You will only get one opportunity to submit a fresh application without a fee. Any further applications after that will require the non-refundable application fee.

Please be aware that we assess applications on a case by case basis against the statutory tests, taking into account relevant information and circumstances at the relevant time. We cannot guarantee presently any decisions, or initial views provided, on an application submitted in the future.

Whilst this message will no doubt be disappointing to you, I trust you will understand that we are obliged to maintain the register consistent with the statutory requirements.

Please contact us if you have any questions about any of the information in this message.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

Regarding	[redacted]
Owner	[redacted]
Keywords	
Duration	**Priority** Normal
Due	
Category	**Sub-Category**

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category	**PEF Category**

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
image003.png	1,278

1 - 1 of 1 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason Sent

[redacted]

E-mail

RE: The pending par...

Sent Date 07/10/2020 11:50

E-mail

From [redacted] **Cc**

To [redacted] **Bcc**

Subject RE: The pending party registration of Alliance 4 Unity

Thanks [redacted]

I'm happy to respond to [redacted]

We recently rejected the application to register Alliance 4 Unity as the name was considered likely to mislead a voter. We also rejected the party's constitution and financial scheme.

We are due to publish all of the decisions made in September fairly soon.

The party have emailed me this morning. They seem keen on the name 'Allies 4 Unity'. I'll keep you updated on any conversations I have.

Yours sincerely.

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 October 2020 11:35
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: The pending party registration of Alliance 4 Unity

[redacted]

All

Please find below an email from [redacted] regarding the pending party registration of Alliance 4 Unity.

I have sent an acknowledgement email.

[redacted]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 06 October 2020 10:02
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: FW: other

From: [redacted]@scottishconservatives.com [redacted]@scottishconservatives.com>
Sent: 06 October 2020 09:53
To: Public Info [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: other

Submitted on 6 October 2020

Submitted values are:

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

Your email
[redacted]@scottishconservatives.com

Your telephone number
[redacted]

Your postcode
[redacted]

Your region/country
[redacted]

I am...
a member of a political party

[redacted]

What are you contacting us about?
other

Your question
Good morning,

I am contacting you regarding the pending party registration of Alliance 4 Unity.

We believe the registration of Alliance 4 Unity, also described as Alliance for Unity, Alliance 4 Unity – No to Separatism, Alliance for Unity – No to Separatism, should be rejected on the grounds that it is likely to mislead voters as to the effect of their vote. This is similar to a previous registration rejected by the Commission and should therefore be rejected.

A proposed name cannot be registered if a voter is likely to be misled as to the effect of their vote, and we believe this is the case with Alliance 4 Unity or Alliance for Unity. This name gives the false impression that they are an alliance of some or all Union-supporting parties. As a result, a voter would be likely to consider that this party represents parties that it did not share similar aims on the separation of the Union.

This was also recently demonstrated in the rejection of Alliance for Independence on the grounds that it is likely to mislead voters as to the effect of their vote. We believe this precedent should also be applied in this case.

https://www.thenational.scot/news/18708248.alliance-independence-knocked-back-electoral-commission-confusing-name

Regards
[redacted]
Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

Regarding	[redacted]		
Owner	[redacted]		
Keywords			
Duration		**Priority**	**Normal**
Due			
Category		**Sub-Category**	
PEF Directorate Categories			
PEF Parent Category		**PEF Category**	

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)

[redacted]

No E-Mail Attachment records are available in this view.

0 - 0 of 0 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason **Received**

[redacted]

From: Partyreg
Sent: 13 October 2020 16:43
To: [redacted]@scottishconservatives.com'
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: FW: The pending party registration of Alliance 4 Unity

Dear [redacted]

We recently rejected the application to register “Alliance 4 Unity” on the basis that the party name is likely to mislead a voter to the effect of their vote. That application was also incomplete. You can view the decision on our website here.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]@scottishconservatives.com [redacted]@scottishconservatives.com>
Sent: 06 October 2020 09:53
To: Public Info [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: other

Submitted on 6 October 2020

Submitted values are:

Name

First name
[redacted]

Last name
[redacted]

Your email
[redacted]@scottishconservatives.com

Your telephone number
[redacted]

Your postcode
[redacted]

Your region/country
[redacted]

I am...
a member of a political party

What are you contacting us about?
other

Your question
Good morning,

I am contacting you regarding the pending party registration of Alliance 4 Unity.

We believe the registration of Alliance 4 Unity, also described as Alliance for Unity, Alliance 4 Unity – No to Separatism, Alliance for Unity – No to Separatism, should be rejected on the grounds that it is likely to mislead voters as to the effect of their vote. This is similar to a previous registration rejected by the Commission and should therefore be rejected.

A proposed name cannot be registered if a voter is likely to be misled as to the effect of their vote, and we believe this is the case with Alliance 4 Unity or Alliance for Unity. This name gives the false impression that they are an alliance of some or all Union-supporting parties. As a result, a voter would be likely to consider that this party represents parties that it did not share similar aims on the separation of the Union.

This was also recently demonstrated in the rejection of Alliance for Independence on the grounds that it is likely to mislead voters as to the effect of their vote. We believe this precedent should also be applied in this case.

https://www.thenational.scot/news/18708248.alliance-independence-knocked-back-electoral-commission-confusing-name

Regards
[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 15 October 2020 17:15
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Response on Alliance for Unity application

Hi [redacted]

I think the response is fine – I would point the requester to our guidance for information about the statutory tests though: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/media/5134

Cheers

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 15 October 2020 16:24
To: [redacted]
Subject: Response on Alliance for Unity application

Hi all

I spoke to [redacted] earlier about a press query I had on party applications. Part of that query was about why we had rejected the application from 'Alliance for Unity' and whether they could resubmit something new. I said I would send them something over by e-mail in regards to the tests we consider.

Can you let me know if you are content with what I am saying below? In particular, do we consider it a 'new application' if they re-submit after a refusal?

Thanks

[redacted]

Hi [redacted]

Just following up on our earlier conversation around our decision in relation to Alliance for Unity.

The criteria we need to consider when registering a part name are on our website: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/party-registration-applications/comment-application

One of these criteria is whether the name is likely to mislead voters. This includes whether a name, description or emblem might cause a voter to either vote in a way they did not intend (for example, for a party other than their preferred party) or to mark their ballot paper in a way which was not their intention.

Where we have rejected an application for a party name, description or emblem, the applicants are free to submit a new application to us.

All the best

[redacted]
[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]
[redacted]

E-mail

RE: Re Alliance 4 Uni...

Sent Date 21/10/2020 15:54

E-mail

From Partyreg **Cc**

To [redacted] **Bcc**

Subject RE: Re Alliance 4 Unity CCM:0462347

Dear Jamie,

Thank you for your email.

As you are requesting a call to discuss the party's name. We do not think it appropriate at this time, particularly as there are no further views to provide in regards to the initial view I provided in my email of 13 October 2020. These names, if submitted, would be considered in line with the statutory requirements and in the context of the assessment. It would be for a formal assessment to determine the details of whether the names were compliant.

For any name that you apply for it is open to you provide representations in support of that name which we can consider as part of our wider assessment against the statutory requirements.
You can submit those documents to partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk.

Registering with the Commission

There are two main options for registration open to a group intending to campaign at an election: either as a party or a non-party campaigner (NPC). Below I have set out some guidance about both entities but it is for you to determine which, if at all, is appropriate for your group to register as.

Party registration

The purpose of registering as a political party with the Commission is to stand candidates in the name of that party at a relevant UK election. How this appears to voters in most cases, is as a candidate who has identity marks associated with that party. For the regional list, a voter is required to select a party and the party will select the candidates from its list. Fundamentally, parties register with us, in line with the PPERA rules, as a single party.

As previously outlined a proposed name must be distinct from other registered parties and must avoid appearing to represent, or being associated with, parties or other groups that it does not have association with.

PPERA does anticipate joint candidates between a group of parties via joint descriptions – where a single candidates contests an election in the name of more than one party. Such a joint description can only be applied for by parties that are already registered and it must identify all parties involved within the description as well as meeting all of the other requirements of a description.

Examples of existing joint descriptions include; "Labour and Co-operative Party" a joint description between 'Co-operative Party' and 'Labour Party'.

A party can only apply for one joint description per grouping of parties and any subsequent joint descriptions with other groups of parties will be considered against each other for the purpose of registration.

Non-party campaigner registration

An NPC is an individual or body that campaigns for or against a particular party, parties or group of candidates in the run up to an election but do not field candidates themselves.

How an NPC does this is largely down to that organisation to determine (subject to compliance with financial reporting rules). An NPC can campaign on a particular topic, specifically for a party or category of candidates in a constituency(s), can seek to coordinate parties or candidates in campaigning or via election pacts.

Some of this will be considered regulated activity and would need to be recorded. This is explained in more detail in our guidance.

Unlike political parties, NPCs do not need to register a constitution or financial scheme with us and there is no registration fee. We also do not apply the same statutory considerations to NPC names.

New application

As mentioned above, it is for your group to determine which type of entity that you wish to register as. We can provide guidance on how to register with us as either a party or a NPC, but is a matter for you to determine the details of that application or notification. We will consider any application to register a party, or notification to register as a NPC, in line with the statutory requirements.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

From: Jamie Blackett [redacted]
Sent: 20 October 2020 19:07
To: Partyreg [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Subject: RE: Re Alliance 4 Unity CCM:0462347

Thanks Michaela.

I have verbally agreed another electoral pact today. That means we are now an alliance of four parties with other discussions ongoing.

From: Partyreg [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk]**
Sent: 20 October 2020 17:51
To: 'Jamie Blackett' [redacted]
Subject: RE: Re Alliance 4 Unity CCM:0462347

Dear Jamie,

Apologies for the delayed response. I will respond in full by the close of tomorrow.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Jamie Blackett [redacted]
Sent: 20 October 2020 13:17
To: Partyreg [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Subject: RE: Re Alliance 4 Unity CCM:0462347

Dear [redacted]

Can I just confirm that you received the email below please?

Many thanks

Jamie

From: Jamie Blackett [redacted]
Sent: 14 October 2020 14:39
To: [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk'** [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Subject: Re Alliance 4 Unity CCM:0462347

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

As Deputy Leader of the Alliance for Unity I have been passed correspondence that you have had with James Giles, our organiser.

I should say at the outset that I understand the strict statutory responsibilities that you have to operate with and the constraints on your decision making. And I apologise for any lack of understanding of the rules on our part which may have led to us making our case insufficiently clearly to allow you to accept our application. I completely accept that you must be clear in your own mind that the name accurately reflects the party and the onus is on us to provide the supporting evidence. The Electoral Commission has a very important duty to support the democratic process and we respect that.

I also acknowledge the pressures that may be put on the Electoral Commission from time to time by other political parties and no doubt our case may have been complicated by your recent rejection of the Alliance for Independence. And of course the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and home working will have made your job much harder.

We will now resubmit our application with additional supporting material. Notwithstanding our initial failure to register the name Alliance for Unity with you, we do have a de facto grassroots political movement called Alliance for Unity with over 17,000 social media followers, more in fact than the Scottish Liberal Democrats. The name of the movement is now well embedded in the public consciousness in Scotland and we have had extensive coverage in the newspapers (which we can provide if that would be helpful). Our supporters and donors would find it hard to understand a name change and the name of the *movement* will not therefore change. The challenge for us is to make the case for the name of the *party* to be the same or very similar. We are still hopeful that we will be able to provide you with the necessary justification to allow you to satisfy yourself that Alliance for Unity is an appropriate name for our party.

We should have made it clear that the name came about because the original founders came from across the political spectrum to form an alliance. It is well known that George Galloway is a former Labour MP, Professor Alan Sked is a former UKIP leader and I am a Tory columnist on the Daily Telegraph. Other candidates have been Tory councillors and prominent Liberals, Labour Party candidates, Brexit Party candidates and Scottish Unionists. We have since made formal political alliances with the Workers Party of Great Britain and the Scottish Unionist Party, both of whom are registered with you, and we are in talks with five other parties. We can provide you with confirmation of this from the Workers Party and the Scottish Unionists. I think we can therefore justifiably say that we are an alliance, indeed I can't think of another word to describe us. The name Unity has a specific definition relating

[redacted] [redacted]

to the Unity of the United Kingdom as opposed to Unionism, which has different connotations, particularly in the West of Scotland. Our pitch to the electorate is that the clue is in the name, Alliance for Unity.

The rejection has left us in an embarrassing position. The longer we remain without official Electoral Commission recognition the greater the awkwardness. Time is also of the essence because, as you may have read in the newspapers, our leader George Galloway is intending to stand in the expected by-election in Rutherglen. I hope therefore that we might seek your advice on a Zoom call to save time and prevent us making any more invalid applications. Whilst I completely agree that all formal negotiations between us must be in writing, not least in case we end up in court, I hope you will allow us to seek verbal clarification to find a speedy resolution for this issue.

I look forward to hearing from you

with best regards

Jamie Blackett
Deputy Leader Alliance for Unity
[redacted]

---------- **Forwarded message** ---------
From: Partyreg < >
Date: Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 5:00 PM
Subject: RE: Re Alliance 4 Unity CCM:0462347
To: James Giles [redacted]

Dear James,

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission.

Ordinarily when we receive an application to register a party, we provide initial views and guidance relating to issues that are immediately apparent. Although you have not submitted a fresh

application, I am happy to provide you with an initial view on the proposed names. I note you have requested a phone call, however all initial views are conducted in writing.

Initial view
You have proposed two names:

[redacted]

1.

All 4 Unity

2.

Allies 4 Unity

Any assessment of these names would consider a number of matters from the previously rejected name 'Alliance 4 Unity'. It would be for a formal assessment to consider whether these names meet

the requirements of the mislead test.
To ensure that your application has the best chance of being registered, we would advise that you make any name significantly different from anything previous rejected.

Decision making

You have stated that you do not agree with our decision and that you are satisfied the other proposed names do not fail the mislead test. It is open to you provide representations with any application

to register, in support of your proposed name. We would consider this as part of our wider formal assessment of your application. Our previous decision was made as part of our statutory decision making, following our process for the assessment of applications to register a political party. If you wish to challenge this

decision I would advise you to seek your own legal advice.

Submitting an application to register

It the party's responsibility to determine the details of the application and to ensure that it complies with the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA).

The Registration Team cannot take a definitive view on whether a particular name, description or emblem will be approved before we have assessed an application fully. This is because the final decision

is taken by the Director of Regulation, who chairs the internal Approvals Board, not the registration team.

If you submit an application by 30 October, no further fees will be required. Submissions received after this date must be accompanied by an additional £150.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

Regarding	[redacted]		
Owner	[redacted]		
Keywords			
Duration		**Priority**	**Normal**
Due			
Category		**Sub-Category**	

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category	**PEF Category**

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
No E-Mail Attachment records are available in this view.	

0 - 0 of 0 (0 selected) Page 1

[redacted]

E-mail

Re: 2020-11-10 Actio...

Sent Date 10/11/2020 13:20

E-mail

From [redacted] **Cc** [redacted]

To [redacted] Partyreg **Bcc**

Subject Re: 2020-11-10 Action for Unity - Matters for Consideration CCM:0488773

Hi [redacted]

Thank you for your email. I will revert back to you shortly on the name. With regard to PEF Online, please find the relevant email addresses below

George Galloway [redacted]
Marjorie Torrance [redacted]

Best wishes
James

James Giles

James Giles
Organiser
Alliance 4 Unity
[redacted]
a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD
[redacted]

Book in a Zoom meeting with me: [redacted]

Sender notified by Mailtrack

On Tue, Nov 10, 2020 at 1:16 PM Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk> wrote:

Dear James,

Authorisations

The documents you have attached only include digital signatures for Majorie Torrance, rather than the required wet signatures. As such, we are unable to be satisfied that the application has been duly authorised.

We would advise you to compete the authorisation process through PEF Online.

Please confirm email addresses for the proposed officers of the party. We will then set them up with PEF Online accounts and provide instructions on completing the authorisation process online.

[redacted]

Proposed registered identity marks

Further to my email of 04 November (copied below for reference), a further matter for consideration has been identified, which you may wish to address before finalising your application.

My initial view is that your proposed name, Action for Unity, is likely to be rejected.

One of the legal requirements is that we must consider whether your proposed name is likely to cause a voter confusion with another registered party. My view is that your name is likely to cause confusion with Unity in Action. Unless this issue is resolved, the application may be refused.

You will note Unity in Action is not registered currently. However, PPERA provides that where a party is statutorily de-registered, its identity marks shall be considered as though they are registered until the end of what would have been the party's financial year end. This means that this particular identity mark is protected until 31 December 2020.

This also means that after 31 December 2020, an application to register the name Action for Unity is more likely to be approved.

A proposed party identity mark must satisfy the requirements outlined in PPERA or it cannot be registered. Please note that this is an initial view only and is not a definitive decision. I advise you to consider our guidance before finalising your application.

You can search existing entries on the register.

Next steps

Please consider whether you wish to submit the application with the currently proposed name. If you wish to amend your application, please let us know as soon as possible and finalise the details by 20 November 2020.

If you wish to proceed with your application with the details unchanged, please provide authorisations by sending scans of physically signed documents, or follow the instructions set out above to complete the authorisation process through PEF Online.

Please contact us if you have any questions about this email.

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission

electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

From: James Giles [redacted]
Sent: 10 November 2020 09:29
To: Partyreg [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Subject: Fwd: urgent documents to be signed

Herein are Marjorie's documents scanned - I am meeting George today to arrange his signature and mine.

Regards,

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Marjorie Torrance** [redacted]
Date: Tue, Nov 10, 2020 at 9:21 AM
Subject: Re: urgent documents to be signed
To: James Giles [redacted]

Morning James

Yes, all well thanks. Hope for you too?

Yes, we can organise a catch-up when it suits you.

Please find attached duly signed.

Regards

Marjorie

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit http://www.symanteccloud.com

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit http://www.symanteccloud.com

[redacted]



Sender notified by
Mailtrack ...

From: James Giles [redacted]
Sent: 10 November 2020 00:59
To: Partyreg[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: Re: Application: Action for Unity (replacing Alliance 4 Unity) CCM:0462315

Dear [redacted]

My apologies for the belated reply. I am currently in the process of obtaining physical signatures to be scanned in to you, and I hope to have this by the close of play today (Tuesday).

Best wishes

James

James Giles

James Giles

Organiser

Alliance 4 Unity

[redacted]

a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD

[redacted]



[redacted]

On Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 3:34 PM Partyreg[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk> wrote:

Dear James,

We confirm receipt of your application to register Action for Unity on 30 October 2020. As your application was submitted within one calendar month of a previous application being refused, a further fee was not required.

[redacted]

We have put your application on hold until 09 November 2020 whilst you review the matters for consideration.

Matters for consideration

The following matters were identified from an initial check of your application and you have an opportunity to address them before the application is assessed. We may identify further matters as part of an assessment. We cannot confirm if an applications is successful until we take a final decision.

It is your responsibility to determine the details of your application and to ensure that it complies with the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA).

Authorisation

In order to register a party, your application must be authorised by all proposed officers. We do not accept digital signatures as authorisation.

We understand that the current circumstances may make arranging any physical signing of documents more difficult. If you are unable to provide an application form with wet signatures, we would recommend that you complete the authorisation of the application through PEF Online.

In order to do, each proposed officer must have a PEF Online user account. If you wish to complete the authorisation online, please confirm email addresses for the proposed officers of the party. We will then set them up with PEF Online accounts and provided instructions on completing the authorisation process online.

Next steps

Please indicate as soon as possible and no later than 09 November 2020 how you wish to authorise your application.

Once we are satisfied that the application is complete, we will publish the details of your application shortly on our 'Current Applications' page of our website for public comment. We will then proceed to assess your application and put it to our internal Approvals Board. This Board is chaired by the Director of Regulation who takes the final decision on an application.

We aim to process an application within approximately six weeks of receiving a complete and compliant application. We do not currently consider your application to be complete and compliant. Please get in touch if you have any further queries about this message. You can find guidance in relation to registering and maintaining a party on our website here.

If you have any questions about this message, please contact us.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission

electoralcommission.org.uk

From: James Giles [redacted]
Sent: 30 October 2020 17:37
To: Partyreg [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Electoral Commission - PEF Online** [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>; PEF Inbox** [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Jamie Blackett** [redacted] **; Marjorie Torrance** [redacted]
Subject: Re: Application: Action for Unity (replacing Alliance 4 Unity) CCM:0462315

Dear [redacted]

I do apologise, I have enclosed the incorrect documents. Find the correct documents signed by all parties below.

JG

James Giles

James Giles

Organiser

Alliance 4 Unity

[redacted]

a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD

[redacted]

[redacted]

On Fri, Oct 30, 2020 at 5:36 PM James Giles <james@jamesgiles.uk> wrote:

[redacted]

[redacted]

As outlined in your rejection of 30th September 2020, please find enclosed a new application as submitted via the Commission's PEF Online for 'Action for Unity', new name of the formerly rejected 'Alliance 4 Unity'.

We are happy to work with you on this with anything you need from us. Please contact myself or Jamie if you require any further information.

We look forward to hearing from you in the very near future.

Regards,

James Giles

James Giles

James Giles

Organiser

Alliance 4 Unity

[redacted]

a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD

[redacted]

[redacted]

Regarding	[redacted]
Owner	[redacted]
Keywords	
Duration	Priority Normal
Due	

[redacted]

Category **Sub-Category**

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category **PEF Category**

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
No E-Mail Attachment records are available in this view.	

0 - 0 of 0 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason **Received**

E-mail

RE: re Action for Uni...

Sent Date 13/11/2020 10:35

E-mail

From Partyreg **Cc**

To James Giles; [redacted] **Bcc**

[redacted]

Subject RE: re Action for Unity CCM:0488775

Dear James,

Thank you for your email.

The option to authorise online should now be available to you when you next log in to PEF Online and navigate to the "declarations" tab. If it is not, please send a screenshot of the page in a reply to this email.

If you are able to begin the authorisation online, please do so, and then wait until George and Marjorie have separately logged in and authorised the application before you continue with the submission.

Please contact us if you have any questions about this.

Kind regards

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: James Giles [redacted]
Sent: 10 November 2020 19:52
To: Partyreg [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Cc: Marjorie Torrance [redacted]
Subject: Re: re Action for Unity CCM:0488775

Dear [redacted]

Alas we remain unable to choose 'Authorise Online' - the option simply does not appear. I confirm Marjorie has opened her account. She is also copied in for reference.

Best

[redacted]

James

James Giles

James Giles
Organiser
Alliance 4 Unity
[redacted]
a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD
[redacted]

[redacted]

On Tue, Nov 10, 2020 at 5:37 PM Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk> wrote:

> Dear James,
>
> The option to authorise online will not become available until Marjorie has activated her PEF Online account and confirmed her association with the party.
>
> Once she has done so, you should be able to begin the online authorisation process, following the instructions set out in my email below.
>
> If, after Marjorie has set up her PEF Online account, you are still unable to authorise the application online, please let us know by responding to this email.
>
> Kind regards
>
> [redacted]
>
> **The Electoral Commission**
> electoralcommission.org.uk
>
> **From: James Giles [redacted]**
> **Sent: 10 November 2020 17:23**
> **To: Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
> **Subject: re Action for Unity**
>
> **Good evening,**
>
> **George and I now have PEF Online accounts (not sure about Marjorie as haven't spoken to her).**

[redacted]

Neither of us get the option to 'approve online' as stated? Perhaps you can advise. A screenshot is attached

Thank you for your point regarding the name Action for Unity. We are now proposing the name of 'All for Unity' (as in we're 'all for' unity).

We will submit as soon as we are physically able to press the online button.

Await further instructions.

Best wishes
James

James Giles

James Giles

Organiser
Alliance 4 Unity
[redacted]
a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD
[redacted]
[redacted]

Regarding [redacted]

Owner [redacted]

Keywords

Duration Priority Normal

Due

Category Sub-Category

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category PEF Category

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
No E-Mail Attachment records are available in this view.	

[redacted]

0 - 0 of 0 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason Sent

E-mail

Re: 2020-11-10 Actio...

Sent Date 16/11/2020 15:44

E-mail

From [redacted] **Cc** [redacted]

To [redacted] Partyreg **Bcc**

Subject Re: 2020-11-10 Action for Unity - Matters for Consideration CCM:0488773

Hi [redacted]

As I'm sure you'll be aware, the longer we are unable to submit the longer it will take to process, putting us at a disadvantage. Can we please find a way of rectifying this ASAP? My phone remains open at all times [redacted]

Best
JG

James Giles

James Giles

Organiser

Alliance 4 Unity

[redacted]

a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD

[redacted]

[redacted]

Sender notified by Mailtrack

On Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 3:16 PM James Giles [redacted] wrote:

Hi [redacted]

Please see attached for the screen for Jamie Blackett.

Regards
James

On Mon, 16 Nov 2020 at 15:14, Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk> wrote:

Dear James,

Could you please send a screenshot to this email address of the authorisation screen that you are seeing?

[redacted]

I will then ask our IT technician to investigate this matter further and let you know as soon as a solution has been identified.

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission

electoralcommission.org.uk

From: James Giles [redacted]
Sent: 16 November 2020 15:08
To: Partyreg [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Subject: Re: 2020-11-10 Action for Unity - Matters for Consideration CCM:0488773

Dear [redacted]

We are STILL only getting the option to authorise by post. This is getting rather irksome now as we are keen and ready to submit.

Please advise?

Regards

James Giles

On Tue, 10 Nov 2020 at 13:16, Partyreg [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk> wrote:

> Dear James,
>
> **Authorisations**
>
> The documents you have attached only include digital signatures for Majorie Torrance, rather than the required wet signatures. As such, we are unable to be satisfied that the application has been duly authorised.
>
> We would advise you to compete the authorisation process through PEF Online.
>
> Please confirm email addresses for the proposed officers of the party. We will then set them up with PEF Online accounts and provide instructions on completing the authorisation process online.
>
> **Proposed registered identity marks**
>
> Further to my email of 04 November (copied below for reference), a further matter for consideration has been identified, which you may wish to address before finalising your application.

[redacted] [redacted]

My initial view is that your proposed name, Action for Unity, is likely to be rejected.

One of the legal requirements is that we must consider whether your proposed name is likely to cause a voter confusion with another registered party. My view is that your name is likely to cause confusion with Unity in Action. Unless this issue is resolved, the application may be refused.

You will note Unity in Action is not registered currently. However, PPERA provides that where a party is statutorily de-registered, its identity marks shall be considered as though they are registered until the end of what would have been the party's financial year end. This means that this particular identity mark is protected until 31 December 2020.

This also means that after 31 December 2020, an application to register the name Action for Unity is more likely to be approved.

A proposed party identity mark must satisfy the requirements outlined in PPERA or it cannot be registered. Please note that this is an initial view only and is not a definitive decision. I advise you to consider our guidance before finalising your application.

You can search existing entries on the register.

Next steps

Please consider whether you wish to submit the application with the currently proposed name. If you wish to amend your application, please let us know as soon as possible and finalise the details by 20 November 2020.

If you wish to proceed with your application with the details unchanged, please provide authorisations by sending scans of physically signed documents, or follow the instructions set out above to complete the authorisation process through PEF Online.

Please contact us if you have any questions about this email.

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission

electoralcommission.org.uk

From: James Giles [redacted]
Sent: 10 November 2020 09:29
To: Partyreg [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Subject: Fwd: urgent documents to be signed

[redacted]

Herein are Marjorie's documents scanned - I am meeting George today to arrange his signature and mine.

Regards,

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Marjorie Torrance** [redacted]
Date: Tue, Nov 10, 2020 at 9:21 AM
Subject: Re: urgent documents to be signed
To: James Giles [redacted]

Morning James

Yes, all well thanks. Hope for you too?

Yes, we can organise a catch-up when it suits you.

Please find attached duly signed.

Regards

Marjorie

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit http://www.symanteccloud.com

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This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit http://www.symanteccloud.com

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Sender notified by
Mailtrack ...

[redacted]

From: James Giles [redacted]
Sent: 10 November 2020 00:59
To: Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: Re: Application: Action for Unity (replacing Alliance 4 Unity) CCM:0462315

Dear [redacted]

My apologies for the belated reply. I am currently in the process of obtaining physical signatures to be scanned in to you, and I hope to have this by the close of play today (Tuesday).

Best wishes

James

James Giles

James Giles

Organiser

Alliance 4 Unity

[redacted]

a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD

[redacted]

[redacted]

On Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 3:34 PM Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk> wrote:

Dear James,

[redacted]

We confirm receipt of your application to register Action for Unity on 30 October 2020. As your application was submitted within one calendar month of a previous application being refused, a further fee was not required.

We have put your application on hold until 09 November 2020 whilst you review the matters for consideration.

Matters for consideration

The following matters were identified from an initial check of your application and you have an opportunity to address them before the application is assessed. We may identify further matters as part of an assessment. We cannot confirm if an applications is successful until we take a final decision.

It is your responsibility to determine the details of your application and to ensure that it complies with the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA).

Authorisation

In order to register a party, your application must be authorised by all proposed officers. We do not accept digital signatures as authorisation.

We understand that the current circumstances may make arranging any physical signing of documents more difficult. If you are unable to provide an application form with wet signatures, we would recommend that you complete the authorisation of the application through PEF Online.

In order to do, each proposed officer must have a PEF Online user account. If you wish to complete the authorisation online, please confirm email addresses for the proposed officers of the party. We will then set them up with PEF Online accounts and provided instructions on completing the authorisation process online.

Next steps

Please indicate as soon as possible and no later than 09 November 2020 how you wish to authorise your application.

Once we are satisfied that the application is complete, we will publish the details of your application shortly on our 'Current Applications' **page of our website for public comment. We will then proceed to assess your application and put it to our internal Approvals Board. This Board is chaired by the Director of Regulation who takes the final decision on an application.**

We aim to process an application within approximately six weeks of receiving a complete and compliant application. We do not currently consider your application to be complete and compliant. Please get in touch if you have any further queries about this message. You can find guidance in relation to registering and maintaining a party on our website here.

If you have any questions about this message, please contact us.

[redacted]

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission

electoralcommission.org.uk

From: James Giles [redacted]
Sent: 30 October 2020 17:37
To: Partyreg [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Electoral Commission - PEF Online** [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>; PEF Inbox** [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Jamie Blackett** [redacted] **;** [redacted] **;**
Marjorie Torrance [redacted]
Subject: Re: Application: Action for Unity (replacing Alliance 4 Unity) CCM:0462315

Dear [redacted]

I do apologise, I have enclosed the incorrect documents. Find the correct documents signed by all parties below.

JG

James Giles

James Giles

Organiser

Alliance 4 Unity

[redacted]

a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

On Fri, Oct 30, 2020 at 5:36 PM James Giles [redacted] wrote:

[redacted]

As outlined in your rejection of 30th September 2020, please find enclosed a new application as submitted via the Commission's PEF Online for 'Action for Unity', new name of the formerly rejected 'Alliance 4 Unity'.

We are happy to work with you on this with anything you need from us. Please contact myself or Jamie if you require any further information.

We look forward to hearing from you in the very near future.

Regards,

James Giles

James Giles

James Giles

Organiser

Alliance 4 Unity

[redacted]

a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD

[redacted]

[redacted]

--

James Giles [redacted]

James Giles

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

--

James Giles [redacted]

James Giles

[redacted]

Regarding [redacted]

Owner [redacted]

Keywords

Duration **Priority** **Normal**

Due

Category **Sub-Category**

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category **PEF Category**

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
No E-Mail Attachment records are available in this view.	

[redacted]

E-mail

All For Unity - Auth...

Sent Date 17/11/2020 13:57

E-mail

From	Partyreg	**Cc**	James Giles; [redacted]
To	Marjorie Torrance	**Bcc**	
Subject	All For Unity - Authorisation and submission CCM:0488784		

Dear Marjorie,

I understand that you are facing some difficulties in sanctioning the application to register All for Unity.

Below I have provided step-by-step instructions which should allow the application to be authorised and submitted online. All steps refers to actions that you as Treasurer should take, unless specified otherwise.

1. **Login into PEF Online.**
2. **Navigate to the "Declarations" tab and click "reset authorisations".**
3. **Navigate to the "Officer roles" tab and untick James Giles as a Deputy Nominating Officer, then click save.**
   Deputy Nominating Officer is not a role to be registered with the Electoral Commission, and attempting to register an officer in this role can stop the PEF Online system from allowing online authorisations to be made. Even if Mr Giles is not registered as an officer with the Commission, he can still retain access to PEF Online as the party's administrator.
4. **Navigate back to "Declarations" tab and click to authorise the application online. There should be a button below the list of officer names on this page.**
5. **Log out of PEF Online, and invite the other officers of the party (George Galloway and James Blackett) one at a time to log into PEF Online, and click the button to authorise the application online.**
6. **Once George and James have individually logged in and authorised, you should now log back in.**
7. **The "Declarations" tab should show green ticks next to the names of all officers at this point.**
8. **If this is the case, please proceed with submitting the application.**
9. **When prompted to pay, please choose the option to pay by post/cheque. You are not, however, required to send an additional fee.**

If, after following steps 1-3, you or any of the other officers find yourselves unable to authorise the application online, please contact us by email and we will provide instructions on an alternative method of authorisation.

Kind regards

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: James Giles [redacted]
Sent: 16 November 2020 18:09
To: Partyreg [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Subject: Fwd: Authorising A4U

This is becoming very confusing and frustrating for my officers, [redacted]

Is there an alternate way we can resolve this?

Regards
James

James Giles

James Giles
Organiser
Alliance 4 Unity
[redacted]
a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD
[redacted]

[redacted]

---------- **Forwarded message** ---------
From: Marjorie Torrance [redacted]
Date: Mon, Nov 16, 2020 at 6:08 PM
Subject: Re: Authorising A4U
To: James Giles [redacted]

Hi James

[redacted]

I've logged in...and the instruction says to click the Sanction button..is that the cross in the red box on the RHS of my name?

I tried clocking on it but nothing happening so maybe I'm doing something wrong.

M

From: James Giles [redacted]
Sent: 16 November 2020 14:48
To: Marjorie Torrance
Subject: Authorising A4U

Hi Marjorie,

If you have some time I can guide you through how to authorise the A4U application on the PEF Online system?

It may be clear now if you log back in - you need to 'sanction' the application.

Best
JG

James Giles

James Giles
Organiser
Alliance 4 Unity
[redacted]
a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD
[redacted]

[redacted]

Sender notified by
Mailtrack

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit http://www.symanteccloud.com

---

[redacted]

ALL FOR UNITY CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

a) The name of the Party shall be "ALL for Unity" (hereafter referred to as 'A4U').

2. OBJECTIVES

a) A4U believes that Scotland's future is within Great Britain, and is opposed to Scottish Independence/Separatism. To this end it shall be the policy of the A4U to oppose a second Scottish Independence referendum, and shall campaign to ensure that Scotland remains a part of Great Britain.

b) In pursuit of these objectives A4U will at all times adhere to the principle of full equality before the law. A4U shall conduct itself and its affairs in such a way that it does not discriminate against or in favour of any person on the grounds of their race, religion, gender, ethnic origin, education, beliefs, sexual orientation, class, social status or any other basis prescribed by law. Further A4U shall at all times adhere to the principles of the rule of law, liberty, democracy and respect for the human rights and the essential, traditional freedoms of the people of Great Britain.

3. MEMBERSHIP

a) A4U shall only comprise of members who shall have paid a subscription agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

b) All members of A4U shall have the right to attend at any General Meeting (which includes any Annual or Special General Meetings). All members of A4U must have been a member prior to the calling of a meeting in order to gain voting rights.

c) All members of A4U shall not behave in a bullying, intimidating or violent manner, and will be bound by the rules of the constitution

d) Harassment, dishonesty, bullying and violence have no place in A4U.

e) Any person who has ceased to be a member of A4U, for whatever reason, shall have no rights or interest in the funds of A4U.

f) Any person wishing to join A4U must apply, and the board will have absolute discretion in approving or rejecting any application.

i. The board will make a decision based upon whether an application is in line with the values and objectives of A4U.

4. OFFICERS

a) A4U will, at its Annual General Meeting, elect a Leader who shall be a member of the Board.

b) The Leader shall chair and conduct the business of the Annual General Meeting, unless otherwise agreed by the Board, and act as the Returning Officer in all elections for Officers of A4U.

c) The Board of A4U shall comprise of:-
i. A Leader
ii. A Nominating Officer
iii. A Treasurer
iv. An Additional Officer

d) The Management Team may also comprise of:-
i. A Policy and Campaign Officer
ii. A Communications Officer

e) The officers of A4U shall be individually elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

f) If an Officer position becomes vacant, for any reason, the Leader has the power to appoint a successor until the next Annual General Meeting.

g) The Officers of A4U shall have day to day responsibility for the management and administration of A4U.

h) The Officers of A4U shall be responsible for implementing any decisions of the board. The actions of the Officers shall not be inconsistent with any objectives of A4U.

5. BOARD

a) A4U shall have a governing body which shall be known as the Board. It will comprise the following officers:-
i. The Leader
ii. The Nominating Officer
iii. The Treasurer
iv. The Additional Officer (if applicable)
v. A Policy and Campaign Officer (where position is not vacant)
vi. A Communications Officer (where position is not vacant)

b) Meetings of the board are called as when required, at the discretion of the leader.

c) For the purposes of A4U's finances, A4U financial year will end of the 31st December each year.

d) The Board will make provision for the collection of subscriptions in respect of A4U membership.

e) The Board has the power (subject to any resolutions made at Annual General Meetings or Special General Meetings) to deal with all matters affecting A4U and its membership as it sees fit.

6. FUNDS OF THE A4U

a) The funds of A4U shall be under the control of the Board.

b) The Board shall appoint not less than two signatories for A4U Bank Accounts.

c) All bank drafts, cheques or similar documents shall always require the signature of one authorised signatory.

d) The Board may alter the A4U Financial Scheme as it sees fit.

7. NOTICE OF MEETINGS
a) The Leader of A4U will convene meetings in conjunction with the board, and give notice of meetings, stating the time and venue for the meeting, accompanied by the minutes of the prior meeting.

8. AGENT
a) In election periods, the board shall appoint an agent, who shall supervise the work of A4U's organisation throughout Scotland.

b) At the discretion of the Board, the Agent may receive expenses incurred on behalf of A4U.

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
a) The Annual General Meeting of A4U shall be held in January every year, by direction of the Leader.

b) It will receive and adopt the audited accounts of A4U.

c) It will elect officers for the forthcoming year.

d) It will appoint an auditor to certify the accounts.

e) At the absolute discretion of the leader, it will transact other business brought before it.

f) Notice of the Annual General Meeting will be given to every member of A4U at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the meeting.

g) The notice of the meeting shall require nominations for officers and other vacancies to be made and seconded not later than five days prior to the day of the meeting.

h) If no nomination for a particular office or vacancy is received, nominations made for the respective office or vacancy made at the meeting will be deemed valid.

10. SPECIAL AND GENERAL MEETINGS
a) (Special) General Meetings of A4U shall be called by the Leader and notice shall be given in writing to every member of A4U.

b) If any member of A4U fails to receive proper or adequate notice of the meeting, such shall not prevent the holding of the meeting or invalidate any resolutions made or elections undertaken at it.

11. QUORUM
a) For all General Meetings of A4U, the quorum shall not be less than four members of the A4U.
b) The quorum of the Board shall be one third of their respective members.

c) In the event of an in quorate meeting of the Board, the meeting may proceed and be considered as quorate for all relevant purposes provided that all officers registered with the Electoral Commission are present.

d) In the event that a General Meeting of A4U shall be or become inquorate, another meeting shall be called not less than 7 days or more than 14 days from the date of the inquorate meeting.

12. VOTING AT MEETINGS

a) At all meetings of A4U, including meetings of the Board, voting shall be by a show of hands.

b) If the Leader at their discretion so directs, the vote shall be by secret ballot.

c) Any motion submitted at any meeting of A4U, including meetings of the board, shall be carried on majority vote.

d) Any member should not take opposition or defeat in a vote regarding their views as personal slight or criticism.

e) The Leader shall have a casting vote in all cases where voting is declared equal.

13. SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

a) A4U's candidates will be decided by a resolution of the Board.

14. FINANCIAL DETAILS

a) The A4U committee will operate a bank, Building Society or Credit Union account on behalf of the party.

b) The treasurer of A4U and any accounting units (where applicable) must maintain proper financial records.

c) Under PPERA, A4U, as a registered political party, must comply with financial regulations and reporting requirements. The responsibility for compliance with PPERA and our financial scheme is placed upon the treasurer of the day.

d) If A4U is dissolved, the members will decide if any remaining funds will be redistributed amongst the membership or donated to a local good cause.

e) Accounts will be produced and presented to A4U at the end of each financial year, set out in the financial scheme as the 31st December of each year.

15. INTERPRETATION

a) The interpretation of these rules is vested in the Board of A4U.

b) The Board has the power to deal with any matter not provided for in these rules.

16. ALTERATION OF THE RULES

a) At the Board’s discretion, a General Meeting of A4U shall have the power to amend, add to or rescind the rules of the A4U by a vote in favour of such a resolution consisting of not less than two-thirds of those present and voting at the meeting

b) Notice of proposed alterations must reach the Leader of A4U in writing at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

c) Notice of the proposed alteration must be given to members of A4U seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

Financial scheme

All for Unity

Introduction

1.1 This scheme sets out how All for Unity ('the party') will organise its financial affairs to comply with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 ('the Act').

Constitution

1.2 A copy of All for Unity's constitution, setting out our structure and organisation, and how we take decisions about the management of the party, is attached to this scheme or has been provided separately to the Electoral Commission.

Accounting units

1.3 All for Unity does not wish to register any separate accounting units with the Commission.

Organisations within the party

1.4 For the purpose of compliance with the Act, the financial affairs of any local branches or affiliated organisations of the party, whether currently existing or to be established in future, will be wholly controlled by the party treasurer.

Financial year

1.5 The party's financial year will run from 1 January to 31 December.

Role of the party treasurer

1.6 **Marjorie Torrance,** the registered treasurer of All for Unity is responsible for the whole party's compliance with the requirements of the Act, including the following:

Annual accounts

1.7 All for Unity will submit our annual statement of accounts to the Commission by the required date, being 30 April of the year following the end of the financial year if both our expenditure and income are under £250,000 in that year, or 7 July of the year following the end of our financial year if either our expenditure or income exceeds £250,000 in that year. We understand that if our income or expenditure exceeds £250,000 our accounts must be submitted with an auditor's certificate.

1.8 In order to comply with this requirement, **Marjorie Torrance** has:

- put in place arrangements for ensuring that annual statements of accounts for the party are prepared, approved, audited where necessary and submitted to the Commission by the prescribed deadline for each register the party is on
- put in place accounting processes capable of meeting the Act's accounting record keeping requirements and of any regulations made by the Commission about the format of statements of accounts

Donations and Loans (regulated transactions)

1.9 All for Unity will report the donations and loans it receives each quarter to the Commission, for each of the registers it is registered on, within the following timescales:

- quarter 1 (1 January – 31 March) by 30 April of that year
- quarter 2 (1 April – 30 June) by 30 July of that year
- quarter 3 (1 July – 30 September) by 30 October of that year
- quarter 4 (1 October – 31 December) by 30 January of the following year

1.10 In order to comply with this requirement, **Marjorie Torrance** will:

For donations:

- record information for all donations of more than £500, including:
  - amount or value of the donation
  - full name of donor
  - registered address of donor
  - company registration number (if applicable)
  - date on which the donation was received
  - date on which the donation was accepted or returned
  - information about the trust (if applicable)
- check the permissibility of any donations over £500 within 30 days of receipt
- ensure that impermissible or unidentifiable donations of more than £500 to the party are recorded as outlined above and returned to the sender or financial institution that transferred the money or, if that is not possible, surrendered to the Commission
- ensure that a submission of quarterly donation reports covering donations exceeding £7,500 (including aggregates of donations and regulated transactions) and any impermissible or anonymous donations of more than £500 is made to the Commission within the above timescales; submitting a nil return if there are no reportable donations
- provide weekly donation reports to the Commission during UK Parliamentary election campaigns if we are contesting the election

1.11 We understand that if we submit four consecutive quarterly nil donation returns, we will then be exempt from submitting further quarterly returns in respect of donations until we receive a reportable donation.

1.12 We also understand that separate quarterly donation returns must be submitted if we appear on the Northern Ireland register of political parties.

For loans (regulated transactions):

- record information about all regulated transactions (loans, credit facilities, etc.) of more than £500, including:
  - value of benefit of the transaction
  - name of all authorised participants
  - registered addresses of participants
  - company registration number (if applicable)
  - nature of the transaction
  - date agreement entered
  - the terms of the transaction
- ensure that the party does not enter into any regulated transactions over £500 with unauthorised participants
- ensure that a submission of quarterly transaction reports covering transactions exceeding £7,500 (including aggregates of donations and regulated transactions) and any void transactions or transactions of more than £500 entered into with an unauthorised participant is made to the Commission within the prescribed timescales; submit a nil return if there are no reportable transactions
- ensure weekly regulated transaction reports can be submitted during UK Parliamentary election periods if we are contesting the election

1.13 We understand that if the party has submitted four consecutive quarterly nil loans returns, we will then be exempt from submitting further quarterly returns until we enter into a reportable loan.

1.14 We also understand that separate quarterly loan returns must be submitted if we appear on the Northern Ireland register of political parties.

Campaign expenditure

1.15 The party will submit a campaign expenditure return if we have candidates contesting a UK Parliamentary election, European election, Scottish Parliamentary election, National Assembly of Wales election, or Northern Ireland Assembly election. The campaign expenditure return will be submitted within three months of the date of the election if our expenditure is less than £250,000 or within six months of the date of the election if our expenditure exceeds £250,000. We note that if our expenditure during the campaign exceeds £250,000 our return must be submitted with an auditor's certificate.

1.16 In order to ensure compliance with the legislation, **Marjorie Torrance** will:

- ensure that campaign expenditure and claims payments are duly authorised, received and paid on time and that all relevant receipts and invoices are kept
- put in place budgeting and monitoring arrangements to ensure that campaign expenditure is within the statutory limits

- ensure the compilation, auditing (if necessary) and timely submission to the Commission of a campaign expenditure return within the statutory deadlines

Referendums

1.17 If the party participates in a referendum to which Part VII of the Act applies, **All for Unity** will develop and put in place arrangements for complying with the controls on referendum expenditure. We will do this by adapting our arrangements for the control of campaign expenditure.

Grants

1.18 **Marjorie Torrance** will ensure that any grants from the Commission to the party are spent in accordance with the conditions of grant imposed by the Commission. We agree to cooperate with any associated audit requirements specified by the Commission.

Changes to registered details

1.19 **Marjorie Torrance** will ensure that the party's details that are registered with the Commission are kept up to date. We will inform the Commission of any changes to registered officers within 14 days of the change and any other changes within 28 days.

1.20 **Marjorie Torrance** will ensure that our RP8 annual confirmation of registered details and £25 fee are submitted to the Commission with the annual statement of accounts by 30 April of the following year (if our expenditure or income is less than £250,000) or by 7 July of the following year (if our expenditure or income exceeds £250,000).

1.21 We note that failure to submit our RP8 annual confirmation of registered details within the prescribed timescale will result in our statutory removal from the register of political parties. We understand that this would mean that the party would no longer be able to field candidates at elections under the party name.

Penalties and offences

1.22 **All for Unity** understands that the Commission may impose civil penalties on parties that fail to comply with their legal obligations, including failures to submit statutory returns on time. The party also understands that failure to comply with certain legal requirements of being a registered political party is a criminal offence.

Role of other party officers

1.23 Should the appointment of the registered party treasurer terminate for any reason, then the registered party leader will, until a new treasurer is

appointed, be treated as the party treasurer and will be responsible for ensuring that the party complies with its legal obligations.

1.24 Should the treasurer whose appointment is terminated also be party leader, then the nominating officer will, until a new treasurer is appointed, be treated as the party treasurer.

1.25 Should the treasurer whose appointment is terminated also be party leader and nominating officer, then the other registered officer will, until a new treasurer is appointed, be treated as the party treasurer.

Promoting compliance with the Act

1.26 The party will have processes in place to ensure compliance with its legal obligations. The registered treasurer, Marjorie Torrance will ensure that the registered leader and all other officers and members of Action 4 Unity have sufficient knowledge of our financial obligations under the Act to ensure the party as a whole complies with these obligations.

1.27 The registered treasurer, Marjorie Torrance, will ensure that any proposed amendments to this financial scheme are submitted to the Commission for approval.

Signed:

Party Leader and nominating officer:

GEORGE GALLOWAY

Date: 10th November 2020

Treasurer:

MARJORIE TORRANCE

Date: 10th November 2020

Additional Officer:

JAMES GILES

Date: 10th November 2020

Application to register a political party in Great Britain

The Electoral Commission

This application was submitted electronically to the Electoral Commission on 17/11/2020 at 16:58:48.
PEF Online reference: 12579

Declaration

The party named below is applying to be a registered party in accordance with the requirements of Part II of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

I declare that All For Unity intends to contest one or more relevant elections in Great Britain (which will not be confined to parish (England) or community (Wales) elections) and is accordingly applying to be registered in the following part(s) of the Great Britain register:

England	N	Scotland	Y	Wales	N

Parliamentary election status

Exempt from UK parliamentary elections: **N**

Signatures

Proposed registered party additional officer

I declare that I am authorised to sign this application on behalf of the above named party.

Signed

Printed name: Mr James Giles

Date: dd mm yyyy

Proposed registered party nominating officer

I declare that I am authorised to sign this application on behalf of the above named party.

Signed

Printed name: Mr George Galloway

Date: dd mm yyyy

Proposed registered party treasurer

I declare that I am authorised to sign this application on behalf of the above named party.

Signed

Printed name Ms Marjorie Torrance Date dd mm yyyy

Additional Officer

I declare that I have accepted the position of Additional Officer and confirm that I have not been convicted of any offence in connection with a relevant election or referendum at any time in the past five years.

Signed

Printed name Mr James Giles Date dd mm yyyy

For electoral commission use

Date of receipt dd mm yyyy Checked by

Party name

Primary name All For Unity

Language English

Secondary name

Language

English translation

Address (party headquarters or for correspondence if no HQ)

Address Suite 2

Fullarton House

4 Fullarton Street

Town Ayr

County Ayrshire

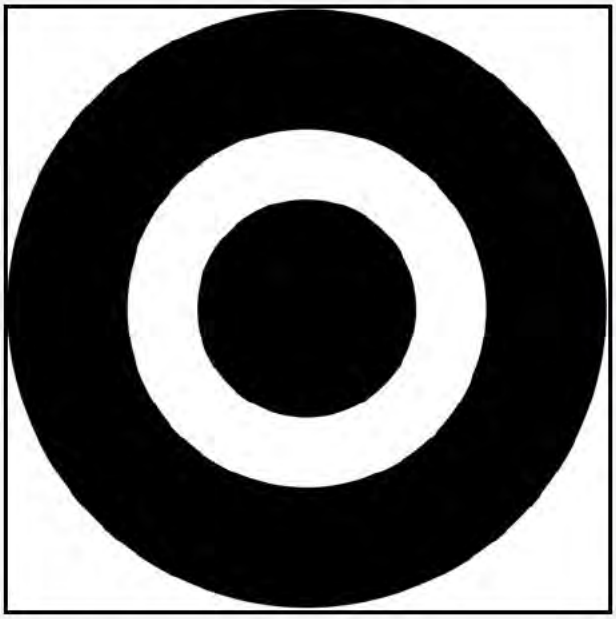
Postcode	KA7 1UB
Country	United Kingdom

Telephone number	[redacted]	Extn	
Fax number			
Email address	[redacted]		
Website address			

Emblems

Emblem Id: 7697

Monochrome emblem



Emblem 1

Colour emblem



Emblem 1

Party descriptions

Description	All for Unity - No to Separatism
Translation language	
Translation	

Party descriptions

Description	All 4 Unity - No to Separatism
Translation language	
Translation	

Party descriptions

Description	All for Unity (George Galloway)
Translation language	
Translation	

Party descriptions

Description	All 4 Unity (George Galloway)
Translation language	
Translation	

Party descriptions

Description	All 4 Unity
Translation language	
Translation	

Party officers

Party Leader

Title	Mr
First name(s)	James William Beauchamp
Surname	Blackett
Home address	[redacted]
Telephone number	[redacted] Extn
Fax number	
Email address	[redacted]

If leader for a particular purpose, please specify

Additional Officer

Title	Mr
First name(s)	James
Surname	Giles
Home address	[redacted]
Town	[redacted]
County	[redacted]
Postcode	[redacted]
Country	[redacted]
Telephone number	[redacted] Extn
Fax number	
Email address	[redacted]

Nominating Officer

Title	Mr
First name(s)	George
Surname	Galloway
Home address	[redacted]
Town	[redacted]
County	[redacted]
Postcode	[redacted]
Country	[redacted]
Telephone number	[redacted] Extn
Fax number	
Email address	[redacted]

Treasurer

Title	Ms
First name(s)	Marjorie
Surname	Torrance
Home address	[redacted]
Town	[redacted]
County	
Postcode	[redacted]
Country	[redacted]
Telephone number	[redacted] Extn
Fax number	
Email address	[redacted]

Financial and organisational information

Please enclose a cheque made payable to The Electoral Commission for £150.00.

Copy of party's constitution enclosed?	☐ Yes	☐ No	(tick as appropriate)
Copy of financial scheme enclosed?	☐ Yes	☐ No	

Please return the form to:
Party and Election Finance
The Electoral Commission
City Chambers
High Street
Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

Tel: 0131 225 0200
Fax: 0131 225 0205
Email: pef@electoralcommission.org.uk
Website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk

E-mail

RE: 2020-11-19 All F...

Sent Date 19/11/2020 16:57

E-mail

From	Partyreg	**Cc**	
To	James William Beauchamp Blackett	**Bcc**	
Subject	RE: 2020-11-19 All For Unity - Financial Scheme CCM:0488789		

Dear Jamie,

Thank you for providing this confirmation. We will accept this written exchange as confirmation of our your authorisation; it is not necessary to provide an amended financial scheme at this stage.

I note that you have also been contacting my colleague [redacted] in regards to the length of time before a decision will be reached on your application.

With your written confirmation below, we now consider your party's application complete, as of 19 November 2020.

We aim to process an application within approximately six weeks of receiving a complete and compliant application. Please note that this timeframe is for providing a decision on your application, and does not guarantee that your application will be approved within this time.

Kind regards

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Jamie Blackett [redacted]
Sent: 19 November 2020 13:17
To: Partyreg <Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: 2020-11-19 All For Unity - Financial Scheme CCM:0488789

Good afternoon [redacted]

Thank you for checking this with me. The scheme has been adopted and approved by me as the Leader of All For Unity, in addition to being approved by

[redacted]

George Galloway as Nominating Officer, Marjorie Torrance as Treasurer and James Giles as Additional Officer.

If you would find it useful for me to send a version of the scheme listing me as Leader, I can of course do so.

Kind Regards,

Jamie Blackett

From: Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk]
Sent: 19 November 2020 11:58
To: [redacted]
Subject: 2020-11-19 All For Unity - Financial Scheme CCM:0488789

Dear Jamie,

We are writing to you in connection with the application to register All For Unity.

We have put your application on hold until 23 November 2020 whilst you review the matters for consideration.

Financial scheme

Pursuant to section 26(1) of the Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act (PPERA) a party may not be registered unless it has adopted a scheme which "sets out the arrangements for regulating the financial affairs of the party for the purposes of [PPERA]." By law, therefore, applicants must give us a financial scheme that is accurate and consistent with the party's constitution, and must have adopted its scheme.

The financial scheme submitted (attached for reference) lists George Galloway as the Leader and Nominating Officer of the party. However, the application submitted lists yourself as the proposed Leader of the party.

Please confirm in a reply to this email that the scheme has been adopted, and it has been authorised by you, as the proposed Leader of the party.

We may refuse an application where we cannot be satisfied that the scheme has been adopted.

If you have any questions about this email, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission

[redacted]

E-mail

RE: Re Alliance 4 Uni...

Sent Date 19/11/2020 14:09

E-mail

From	James William Beauchamp Blackett	Cc	James Giles; [redacted]
To	[redacted]; Partyreg	Bcc	
Subject	RE: Re Alliance 4 Unity CCM:0462347		

Dear [redacted],
My mistake, I refer of course to 'All For Unity'. But we are using the name by which we are known by our followers, Alliance for Unity, in ythe meantime on social media. We will of course change to the new name when it is registered.
Kind regards
Jamie

From: Jamie Blackett [redacted]
Sent: 19 November 2020 12:08
To: 'Partyreg'
Cc: 'James Giles'
Subject: RE: Re Alliance 4 Unity CCM:0462347
Dear [redacted]
The Alliance for Unity is being crucified on social media by our opponents because we are still not registered with the Commission. Unfortunately the delay lends credence to the smears.
Can I please ask when we can expect our re-application to be processed?
Kind regards
Jamie

From: Jamie Blackett [redacted]
Sent: 20 October 2020 19:07
To: 'Partyreg' [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Re Alliance 4 Unity CCM:0462347
Thanks [redacted]
I have verbally agreed another electoral pact today. That means we are now an alliance of four parties with other discussions ongoing.

From: Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk]
Sent: 20 October 2020 17:51
To: 'Jamie Blackett' [redacted]
Subject: RE: Re Alliance 4 Unity CCM:0462347
Dear Jamie,
Apologies for the delayed response. I will respond in full by the close of tomorrow.
Many thanks,
[redacted]
[redacted]
The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

From: Jamie Blackett [redacted]
Sent: 20 October 2020 13:17
To: Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Re Alliance 4 Unity CCM:0462347
Dear [redacted]
Can I just confirm that you received the email below please?
Many thanks
Jamie

From: Jamie Blackett [redacted]
Sent: 14 October 2020 14:39
To: [redacted]**@electoralcommission.org.uk'** [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: Re Alliance 4 Unity CCM:0462347
Dear [redacted]
As Deputy Leader of the Alliance for Unity I have been passed correspondence that you have had with James Giles, our organiser.
I should say at the outset that I understand the strict statutory responsibilities that you have to operate with and the constraints on your decision making. And I apologise for any lack of understanding of the rules on our part which may have led to us making our case insufficiently clearly to allow you to accept our application. I completely accept that you must be clear in your own mind that the name accurately reflects the party and the onus is on us to provide the supporting evidence. The Electoral Commission has a very important duty to support the democratic process and we respect that.
I also acknowledge the pressures that may be put on the Electoral Commission from time to time by other political parties and no doubt our case may have been complicated by your recent rejection of the Alliance for Independence. And of course the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and home working will have made your job much harder.
We will now resubmit our application with additional supporting material. Notwithstanding our initial failure to register the name Alliance for Unity with you, we do have a de facto grassroots political movement called Alliance for Unity with over 17,000 social media followers, more in fact than the Scottish Liberal Democrats. The name of the movement is now well embedded in the public consciousness in Scotland and we have had extensive coverage in the newspapers (which we can provide if that would be helpful). Our supporters and donors would find it hard to understand a name change and the name of the *movement* will not therefore change. The challenge for us is to make the case for the name of the *party* to be the same or very similar. We are still hopeful that we will be able to provide you with the necessary justification to allow you to satisfy yourself that Alliance for Unity is an appropriate name for our party.
We should have made it clear that the name came about because the original founders came from across the political spectrum to form an alliance. It is well known that George Galloway is a former Labour MP, Professor Alan Sked is a former UKIP leader and I am a Tory columnist on the Daily Telegraph. Other candidates have been Tory councillors and prominent Liberals, Labour Party candidates, Brexit Party candidates and Scottish Unionists. We have since made formal political alliances with the Workers Party of Great Britain

and the Scottish Unionist Party, both of whom are registered with you, and we are in talks with five other parties. We can provide you with confirmation of this from the Workers Party and the Scottish Unionists. I think we can therefore justifiably say that we are an alliance, indeed I can't think of another word to describe us. The name Unity has a specific definition relating to the Unity of the United Kingdom as opposed to Unionism, which has different connotations, particularly in the West of Scotland. Our pitch to the electorate is that the clue is in the name, Alliance for Unity.
The rejection has left us in an embarrassing position. The longer we remain without official Electoral Commission recognition the greater the awkwardness. Time is also of the essence because, as you may have read in the newspapers, our leader George Galloway is intending to stand in the expected by-election in Rutherglen. I hope therefore that we might seek your advice on a Zoom call to save time and prevent us making any more invalid applications. Whilst I completely agree that all formal negotiations between us must be in writing, not least in case we end up in court, I hope you will allow us to seek verbal clarification to find a speedy resolution for this issue.
I look forward to hearing from you
with best regards
Jamie Blackett
Deputy Leader Alliance for Unity
[redacted]

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Partyreg < >
Date: Tue, Oct 13, 2020 at 5:00 PM
Subject: RE: Re Alliance 4 Unity CCM:0462347
To: James Giles [redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission.

Ordinarily when we receive an application to register a party, we provide initial views and guidance relating to issues that are immediately apparent. Although you have not submitted a fresh

application, I am happy to provide you with an initial view on the proposed names. I note you have requested a phone call, however all initial views are conducted in writing.

Initial view
You have proposed two names:

1.

All 4 Unity

[redacted]

2.

Allies 4 Unity

Any assessment of these names would consider a number of matters from the previously rejected name 'Alliance 4 Unity'. It would be for a formal assessment to consider whether these names meet

the requirements of the mislead test.
To ensure that your application has the best chance of being registered, we would advise that you make any name significantly different from anything previous rejected.

Decision making
You have stated that you do not agree with our decision and that you are satisfied the other proposed names do not fail the mislead test. It is open to you provide representations with any application

to register, in support of your proposed name. We would consider this as part of our wider formal assessment of your application.
Our previous decision was made as part of our statutory decision making, following our process for the assessment of applications to register a political party. If you wish to challenge this

decision I would advise you to seek your own legal advice.

Submitting an application to register

It the party's responsibility to determine the details of the application and to ensure that it complies with the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA).

The Registration Team cannot take a definitive view on whether a particular name, description or emblem will be approved before we have assessed an application fully. This is because the final decision

is taken by the Director of Regulation, who chairs the internal Approvals Board, not the registration team.

If you submit an application by 30 October, no further fees will be required. Submissions received after this date must be accompanied by an additional £150.
Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

Regarding [redacted]

Owner [redacted]

Keywords

Duration **Priority** Normal

Due

Category **Sub-Category**

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category **PEF Category**

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
No E-Mail Attachment records are available in this view.	

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Status Reason Received

[redacted]

E-mail

Re: 2020-11-19 All F...

Sent Date 19/11/2020 17:08

E-mail

From James Giles, Alliance 4 Unity **Cc**

To [redacted] Partyreg **Bcc**

Subject Re: 2020-11-19 All For Unity - Receipt of application CCM:0488791

Thank you [redacted]

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you do need any further information from me or my colleagues

James Giles
National Organiser
All For Unity

On Thu, 19 Nov 2020 at 16:56, Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk> wrote:

> Dear James,
>
> We confirm receipt of your application to register All For Unity on 30 October 2020. As your application was submitted within one calendar month of a previous application being refused, a further fee was not required.
>
> We required confirmation from Jamie Blackett that the financial scheme submitted had been adopted, as it listed George Galloway as Leader rather than Mr Blackett.
>
> This confirmation of adoption has now been provided and your application is now considered complete, as of 19 November 2020.
>
> We will now assess your application against the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). At this point we cannot confirm whether or not the application will be approved.
>
> **Next steps**
>
> We will publish the details of your application shortly on our 'Current Applications' page for public comment.
>
> The Registration Team will assess your application against the PPERA requirements and put it to our internal Approvals Board. This Board is chaired by the Director of Regulation who takes the final decision.
>
> We aim to process an application within approximately six weeks of receiving a complete and compliant application.
>
> We may write to you during the assessment process seeking further information from you about the application.
>
> Otherwise, we will contact you again once we have made a decision. In the meantime, you can find guidance in relation to registering and maintaining a party on our website.
>
> Yours sincerely,
>
> [redacted]
>
> [redacted]
>
> **The Electoral Commission**
>
> electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

From: James Giles [redacted]
Sent: 17 November 2020 17:02
To: Partyreg [redacted]**@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Subject: Fwd: Electoral Commission - Party and Election Finance Database System - Application Submitted

[redacted]

Thank you so very much for your detailed instructions to Marjorie. It was incredibly helpful and I'm over the moon that our new application has finally gone in.

Best wishes

James

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Electoral Commission - PEF Online** [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Date: Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 4:58 PM
Subject: Electoral Commission - Party and Election Finance Database System - Application Submitted
To: [redacted]

An application for All For Unity has been submitted to the Electoral Commission.

Sender notified by Mailtrack ..

Regarding [redacted]

Owner [redacted]

Keywords

Duration **Priority** Normal

Due

Category **Sub-Category**

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category **PEF Category**

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
No E-Mail Attachment records are available in this view.	

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Status Reason Received

[redacted]

E-mail

RE: PRESS QUERY

Sent Date 20/11/2020 11:55

E-mail

From [redacted] **Cc** [redacted]

To [redacted] **Bcc**

Subject RE: PRESS QUERY

[redacted]

That makes perfect sense to me. I'll stick with my existing line and add on your suggested text on e-mail notification. I'm not around this pm so hopefully that gives him enough to make sure he becomes aware as and when it updates. I think he is smart enough to connect the dots himself so we don't need to muddy the waters.

Thanks all for your speedy responses.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 20 November 2020 11:51
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: PRESS QUERY

Hi [redacted]

The All For Unity application was considered complete as of yesterday we're expecting it to be published on our current applications page later today. [redacted] **will be doing the publication so perhaps he could confirm when it's been done, and you would be able to give a more detailed response then.**

We might want to be careful though confirming an association based on an individual's connection, as George Galloway being an officer isn't part of the information that we would publish on our website, and the party are still referring to themselves on social media as Alliance For Unity.

However, a number of the proposed descriptions refer to George Galloway (albeit that doesn't technically confirm his association, because we publish what descriptions the party has applied for, even if Galloway was nothing to do with the party).

[redacted]

[redacted] – I don't know whether you would be happy though for us to confirm (once the application has been published) that All For Unity is the resubmission from Alliance For Unity, and let the journalist connect the dots about any individuals who might be involved.

[redacted] – if you need to get back to the journalist before the publication is completed, I think your line works. You could also add the following sentence:

If you wish to receive email notifications when the current applications page is updated, please contact partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk

Happy to discuss!

Cheers,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 20 November 2020 11:42
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: PRESS QUERY

Apologies for forgetting it was you [redacted]

Given that we haven't published anything on our website yet then I propose just to go back and say:

As you have noted we rejected their application in September, However, it is open for them to apply again and we will publish any new application on our website: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/party-registration-applications/view-current-applications

Does that work for you [redacted]

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 20 November 2020 11:12
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: PRESS QUERY

[redacted]

Hi [redacted]

[redacted] is working on this case – they are now applying under the name "All for Unity", though I don't think this has been fully authorised yet. But I'll let [redacted] fill in the details.

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 20 November 2020 11:08
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: FW: PRESS QUERY
Importance: High

Hi all

Sorry, I can't remember who is dealing with the application for Alliance 4 Unity but the last time I had a media query on this we said that we had rejected it but it was open for them to make a new application. I don't think anything further has happened since then so I can go back with the same response?

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 20 November 2020 10:59
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: Re: selection campaign funding

Morning [redacted]

Just one more quick question. George Galloway's Alliance 4 Unity aren't registered with you, are they? Their application was rejected in September as the name was "likely to mislead voters as to the effect of their vote".

Is that right? Has there been anything else since then?

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 19 November 2020 13:51
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: selection campaign funding

Hi [redacted]

[redacted]

Candidates for Westminster by-elections must report relevant donations received in the campaign and report them to the Returning Officer after the poll. More information is available from p.17 of our guidance: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdf_file/Parliamentary-By-Election-Part-3-Spending-and-donations.pdf

As you will see in the guidance (p.23) , those candidates who are also regulated individuals (i.e. already those who are already a 'holder of elected office) may also be required to report donations ahead of the regulated campaign period for the by-election.

Hope this is helpful but do call if you have further questions.

All the best

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 19 November 2020 11:57
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: selection campaign funding

BTW if you do mean Westminster recall then here's the guidance for campaigners: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/party-or-campaigner/recall-petition-campaigners

---

From: [redacted]
Sent: 19 November 2020 11:49
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: Re: selection campaign funding

Morning [redacted]

I'm wondering if these rules would cover fundraising for a prospective by-election campaign?

Basically, if there was a Westminster seat where a by-election might be held, but hasn't yet been called, what are the rules?

Also, what are the rules around raising funds to use for campaigning in recall petitions? Would that be covered by the regulated donee rules?

Cheers!

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 29 September 2020 15:46

[redacted]

To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: selection campaign funding

[redacted]

Still in the meeting but just looked at our guidance to 'regulated donees'

If you look at page 5 you will see that regulated donees must report donations and loans they accept 'in connection with their political activities'.

For members of registered parties and members associations, political activities include:

- **promoting the election of someone to a position or committee in the party**
- **promoting the selection of someone as the party's candidate for election**
- **promoting policies for adoption by the party**

Will call as soon as I can.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 September 2020 14:51
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: selection campaign funding

Hi [redacted]

[redacted] **here. Hope all well with you.**

I don't know if you're aware but there's a growing stooshie in the SNP over potential candidates raising cash to help with their campaigns to be selected.

I wrote a story about it a couple of weeks ago [redacted]

I asked the SNP for a comment and they said "All donations are regulated by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendum Act (PPERA) 2000."

But that's not right, is it? Your candidate rules don't apply to an internal party selection contest, do they?

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Regarding [redacted]

Owner [redacted]

Keywords

Duration **Priority** Normal

Due

Category **Sub-Category**

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category **PEF Category**

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

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No E-Mail Attachment records are available in this view.	

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Status Reason Received

[redacted]

E-mail

RE: [redacted] - Al...

Sent Date 25/11/2020 16:59

E-mail

From [redacted] **Cc** [redacted]

To [redacted] [redacted] **Bcc**

Subject RE: [redacted] - Alliance 4 Unity

I do not know, only that he put a request in to FOI, who passed that to respond to as it was not an FOI.

Cheers,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 November 2020 15:38
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: [redacted] - Alliance 4 Unity

Who is he?

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 25 November 2020 15:22
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: [redacted] - Alliance 4 Unity

Ahh, in that case do you think we should follow up with [redacted] to clarify my earlier response and contact Galloway to that effect?

For [redacted] do you want draft a line and I can go back to him or do you want to contact him direct? I'm easy either way.

Cheers,

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 November 2020 15:20
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: [redacted] - Alliance 4 Unity

Hi again,

So if he is raising funds for a potential by-election, these would possible be regulated donee donations, if they were over £500, if he is a member of a political party and they are for political activity.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 25 November 2020 15:13
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: [redacted] - Alliance 4 Unity

Hi [redacted]

It's an application for a new party based in Scotland.

Cheers,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 November 2020 15:09
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: [redacted] - Alliance 4 Unity

Hi

George Galloway is currently the leader of the Workers Party of Britain. Is the Alliance 4 Unity/All 4 Unity the same party as Workers Party of Britain or is it a separate party?

[redacted]

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 25 November 2020 14:48
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: [redacted] - Alliance 4 Unity

Hi Both,

I responded to the attached earlier. I note that Galloway has stated the party is regulated by PPERA prior to registration, which is not the case. I'm escalating this to you in case you wanted to take any action on this. We might want to contact the party to provide guidance etc.

Cheers,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Partyreg
Sent: 25 November 2020 14:45
To: [redacted]
Subject: [redacted] - Alliance 4 Unity

Dear [redacted]

Our FOI team have passed your enquiry to the Registration team to provide a response.

As you have stated, the application 'Alliance 4 Unity' was rejected on 28 September.

On 30 October, we received an application to register 'All 4 Unity'. This application was considered complete on 19 November and published on our website for public comment on 20 November. I can confirm that the application to register 'All 4 Unity' was made by the same party that applied to register 'Alliance 4 Unity'. We aim to provide decisions to approve or reject applications within 6 weeks of being complete. Our decisions to are published on our website on a roughly monthly basis.

The legislation does not prevent a party or non-registered group from crowd funding. You can find more information on this process in our crowdfunding factsheet. Until such time that a party is registered with the Commission it is not regulated by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA).

If you have any further questions relating to party finance please contact our Financial Reporting team at [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk

Kind regards,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

Regarding [redacted]

Owner [redacted]

Keywords

Duration **Priority** **Normal**

Due

Category **Sub-Category**

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category **PEF Category**

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
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[redacted]

ALL FOR UNITY

APPLICATION TO REGISTER IN GB

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Decision and Approval Board comments

Applicant party name: All For Unity

Application type: Register a new party

Relevant register: GB (Scotland)

Application details and recommendation	**Decision and Approval Board comments**
Constitution (**R**) Financial scheme (**R**) Proposed party name: All For Unity (**A**) Proposed descriptions: 1. All for Unity - No to Separatism (**A**) 2. All 4 Unity - No to Separatism (**A**) 3. All for Unity (George Galloway) (**R**) 4. All 4 Unity (George Galloway) (**R**) 5. All 4 Unity (**A**) Proposed emblems: 1.  (**A**)	**Initial view (please add initials and date):** AON: 24/12/20 As recommended I am minded to reject the constitution and financial scheme and descriptions 3 and 4. As recommended I am minded to accept the name, emblem and descriptions 1, 2 and 5. **Approval Board comments (please add initials and date):** AAM – 31.12.2020: I agree both with recommendation and initial view. I was in two minds about the emblem but found the analysis particularly helpful in assisting with the decision making. RT 31/12/20: I agree with the recommendations and with the initial view. [redacted] 31/12/2020: I agree with the initial view and recommendation. TH 04.01.2021: I agree with the recommendations and the initial view. NN 04.01.2021: I agree with the recommendation and initial view CH 06/01/21: I agree with the recommendation and the initial view. **Decision (please add initials and date):** AON: 7/1/21 After reading the comments of the panel, as recommended I reject the constitution and financial scheme and descriptions 3 and 4. As recommended I accept the name, emblem and descriptions 1, 2 and 5.

Application details and recommendation	Decision and Approval Board comments

Recommendation of Registration Team member

1. In making my recommendations I have considered the requirements and statutory tests set out in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA).
2. I recommend that the Commission **reject** party's application.
3. This is because, in my view, the constitution is not consistent with the financial scheme or PPERA. I also therefore cannot be satisfied that the party have adopted their scheme.
4. My recommendations in relation to each aspect of the application are set out as follows:

Constitution	Link	**R**	Not consistent with the party's financial scheme or PPERA.
Financial scheme	Link	**R**	Not consistent with the constitution and has not been adopted.
Name	All For Unity	**A**	Meets the requirements of a name under PPERA.
Description 1	All for Unity - No to Separatism	**A**	Meets the requirements of a description under PPERA.
Description 2	All 4 Unity - No to Separatism	**A**	Meets the requirements of a description under PPERA.
Description 3	All for Unity (George Galloway)	**R**	Likely to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote.
Description 4	All 4 Unity (George Galloway)	**R**	Likely to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote.
Description 5	All 4 Unity	**A**	Meets the requirements of a description under PPERA.

Emblem 1		**A**	Meets the requirements of an emblem under PPERA.

[redacted]

23 December 2020

Registration Team member assessment

Applicant party information

Link to party's registered entry	N/A
Link to party accounts	Website, Twitter, Facebook

5. The party continue to brand themselves as Alliance For Unity.
6. The proposed Nominating Officer, George Galloway, was an MP for the Labour Party and Respect Party.
7. He is also the Leader and Nominating Officer for 'Workers Party of Great Britain'.
8. Mr Galloway has also recently received media attention for his fundraising for a potential by-election.[1]
9. Jamie Blackett, the proposed Leader, is an author and journalist.[2]

Application history

Link to application docs	Application, Financial Scheme, Constitution, Emblem 1, Email	
Part of the register	GB (Scotland)	
Date first lodged	**Date considered complete**	**Date published for comment**
30 October 2020	19 November 2020	20 November 2020

10. The party previously applied to register in September 2020 as Alliance For Unity.
11. The application was refused on the grounds the constitution did not set out the structure and organisation of the party, the financial scheme had not been adopted, and the name was likely mislead electors as to the effect of their vote.[3]
12. This application was submitted within one calendar month of the previous application being refused, and therefore a fee was not required.

[1] https://www.thenational.scot/news/18889314.george-galloway-fund-non-existent-by-election-fuelled-anonymous-donors/

[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamie_Blackett_(writer)

[3] [redacted]

13. This application was originally submitted to register Action For Unity. We wrote to the party and advised them the name would likely be rejected due to the similarity between the applicant party name and the currently registered Unity in Action.[4]
14. There were also issues with the authorisation of the application in hand.
15. These issues were resolved and a complete application to register All For Unity was submitted on 19 November 2020.

Consideration of the Welsh Language Measure

16. As a public body operating in Wales, we are required to carry out our functions in line with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards. We are required to treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English in performing our functions in Wales.
17. I have considered these requirements insofar as they relate to our assessment of this registration application, including the application of the statutory tests under Part II of PPERA.
18. To this end, as the party has not applied to contest elections in Wales, I do not consider that these requirements have any further relevance to this application.

Intention to stand candidates

19. The party have signed a declaration to contest elections in Scotland.

[4] Unity in Action has since been statutorily deregistered, but the identity marks remain protected until 31 December 2020.

Application form

Link to application form	Application form
Recommendation	**Approve**
Summary reason	Meets the requirements under PPERA.

20. I **am** satisfied that the required fee has been provided.
    a. As the application to register was made within one calendar month of a previous refusal, a further fee was not required.
21. I **am** satisfied that the party have provided the address of the headquarters, or that where they have provided a correspondence address, that there is no evidence that the party has a headquarters.
22. I **am** satisfied that the party have applied to register the overall leader of the party, or where the party does not have an overall leader, the leader is registered for a particular purpose.
23. I **am not** aware of any convictions for electoral fraud within the last 5 years for the proposed treasurer, having conducted open source searches.
24. I **am** satisfied that the officer roles applied for are compliant with PPERA.
25. I **am** satisfied the party has provided home addresses for all responsible officers.
26. I **am** satisfied that the application has been properly authorised.
27. I **am** satisfied the party has applied for a financial year end that matches that applied for in their financial scheme.

Constitution

Link to constitution	Constitution
Recommendation	**Reject**
Equality Act issue identified	**No**
Summary reason	Not consistent with the party's financial scheme or PPERA.

28. Paragraph 5(1)(a), Schedule 4 of PPERA prescribes that a party must submit with their application to be registered a copy of their constitution. Section 26(9) of PPERA says that a constitution is the document or documents by which the structure and organisation of the party is determined. Accordingly, the constitution must set out sufficient detail to show the structure and organisation of the party.

29. In my view the constitution **does not** show the structure and organisation of the party.

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	**Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.**
Summary and recommendation.	30. **The party's constitution is not consistent with the financial scheme or PPERA in regards to Leader changes.** 31. **If the role of Leader were to become vacant for such a reason that the Leader would be unable to appoint their own successor, the party would be unable to replace this officer within the required timeframe of 14 days, unless the position became vacant shortly before the party's AGM.** 32. **This is therefore inconsistent with the party's financial scheme and PPERA, which states that the party must notify the Commission of a replacement officer within 14 days.** 33. **I am satisfied that the financial processes set out in the constitution are now consistent with the party's financial scheme, which was identified as an issue in the previous version of the constitution assessed.** 34. **However, as set out above, the constitution is not consistent with the financial scheme or PPERA in regards to the timeframe for officer changes.**

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.
The constitution should reflect which register the party are applying to register in.	35. The constitution does not explicitly state the register to party is applying to be on. 36. However, the constitution states that the party shall campaign to ensure that Scotland remains a part of Great Britain (2a). 37. Accordingly, the party has applied to register in Scotland.
The party's aims and objectives.	38. The party believes that Scotland's future is within Great Britain, and is opposed to Scottish Independence/Separatism. To this end it shall be the policy of the A4U to oppose a second Scottish Independence referendum, and shall campaign to ensure that Scotland remains a part of Great Britain (2a).
A reference to an intention to stand candidates and at which elections.	39. The constitution does not explicitly state an intention to stand candidates. 40. However, the candidate selection process is set out at 13a.
The candidate selection process (or at least a statement that the party will have one).	41. A4U's candidates will be decided by a resolution of the Board.
The structure of the party and who is responsible for managing the party, including the responsibility of the party officers, the terms of office and procedure for change of those officers.	42. A4U shall have a governing body which shall be known as the Board. It will comprise the following officers:- i. The Leader, ii. The Nominating Officer, iii. The Treasurer, iv. The Additional Officer (if applicable), v. A Policy and Campaign Officer (where position is not vacant), vi. A Communications Officer (where position is not vacant) (5a). 43. The Officers of A4U shall have day to day responsibility for the management and administration of A4U (4g). 44. A4U will, at its Annual General Meeting, elect a Leader who shall be a member of the Board (4a). 45. The officers of A4U shall be individually elected annually at the Annual General Meeting (4e). 46. If an Officer position becomes vacant, for any reason, the Leader has the power to appoint a successor until the next Annual General Meeting (4f).

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.
	If the role of Leader were to become vacant for such a reason that the Leader would be unable to appoint their own successor, the party would be unable to replace this officer within the required timeframe of 14 days, unless the position became vacant shortly before the party's AGM. **This is therefore inconsistent with the party's financial scheme and PPERA, which states that the party must notify the Commission of a replacement officer within 14 days.**
How the party will make and record decisions, as well as any other governance arrangements. For example the frequency, timing and type of meetings and the quorum for meetings.	47. Meetings of the board are called as when required, at the discretion of the leader (5b). 48. The Annual General Meeting of A4U shall be held in January every year, by direction of the Leader (9a). 49. For all General Meetings of A4U, the quorum shall not be less than four members of the A4U (11a). 50. The quorum of the Board shall be one third of their respective members, and all officers registered with the Commission (11b-c). 51. Any motion submitted at any meeting of A4U, including meetings of the board, shall be carried on majority vote (12c). 52. The Leader shall have a casting vote in all cases where voting is declared equal (12e).
If the party has membership, and if so the process and rules governing that membership.	53. A4U shall only comprise of members who shall have paid a subscription agreed at the Annual General Meeting (3a). 54. All members of A4U shall have the right to attend at any General Meeting (which includes any Annual or Special General Meetings). All members of A4U must have been a member prior to the calling of a meeting in order to gain voting rights (3b).
How the constitution can be changed and the process for dissolution of the party.	55. At the Board's discretion, a General Meeting of A4U shall have the power to amend, add to or rescind the rules of the A4U by a vote in favour of such a resolution consisting of not less than two-thirds of those present and voting at the meeting (16a).
That the party have adopted its financial scheme / The constitution	56. The funds of A4U shall be under the control of the Board (6a). 57. The Treasurer is a member of the board (4c, 5a).

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.
must also be consistent with a party's financial scheme	58. Meetings cannot be quorate without all officers registered with the Commission present (11c). 59. The treasurer of A4U and any accounting units (where applicable) must maintain proper financial records (14b). 60. The responsibility for compliance with PPERA and our financial scheme is placed upon the treasurer of the day (14c). **I am satisfied that the financial processes set out in the constitution are consistent with the party's financial scheme.** **However, as set out above, the constitution is not consistent with the financial scheme or PPERA in regards to the timeframe for officer changes.**
Equality Act consideration	61. I **have not** identified any issues in the legislation relating to equalities legislation.

Financial scheme

Link to scheme	Financial scheme
Recommendation	**Reject**
Summary reason	Not consistent with the constitution and has not been adopted.

62. Pursuant to section 26 of PPERA, a party may not be registered unless it has adopted a scheme which sets out the arrangement for regulating the financial affairs of the party for the purposes of PPERA.
63. I am of the view that the scheme **does** set out the arrangements for regulating the financial affairs of the party of the purposes of PPERA.
64. Based on the information available to me, I am of the view that the party **has not adopted** the scheme
    a. The party's financial scheme sets out that the Commission must be notified of officer changes within 14 days.
    b. However, for the reasons set out in the constitution analysis, t if the office of Leader became vacant for such a reason that the Leader would be unable to appoint their own successor, and not within 14 days of the party's AGM, the party would be unable to fulfil their legal requirement to replace their Leader within 14 days.
    c. As the party's constitution is inconsistent with the financial scheme, I cannot be satisfied that the scheme has been adopted.
65. The party's financial year end **does** match the financial year end indicated on the application form.

Name

Proposed name	All For Unity
Recommendation	**Approve**
Summary reason	Meets the requirements of a name under PPERA.

66. In making my recommendation I have considered the factors set out in the following paragraphs.

67. The proposed identifier **is not the same** as another identifier on the register.

68. The proposed identifier, in my view, **would not be likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to result in an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.

69. The decision on party's previous applicant name, Alliance 4 Unity, was to refuse, on the grounds that the indication the party was an alliance of parties was likely to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote.[5]

70. The party have now applied with a new name, and I not of the view that an elector is likely to be misled.

71. I recognise that there are arguments to be made for both positions, and I have set out considerations below.

Considerations for the proposed name being likely to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote

a. The party previously applied to register as Alliance 4 Unity.
b. Despite the change of name, it appears that the applicant party is still positioning itself as an alliance of pro- Scottish unionism parties.
c. The applicant party's website and campaign material still refer to the group as an 'Alliance for Unity'.[6]
d. The cover page of the website also contains the following statement:

   'Scots have the chance to elect a cross-party Alliance who will take the fight to Holyrood in 2021.'

e. If the applicant party name were to be registered, the party may amend their website and social media names to reflect this.
   i. The party have indicated their intention to do so.[7]
   ii. However, as we do not regulate the content of campaign material, we have no power to ensure that this action is taken.
f. However, it seems likely that the party will continue to position themselves as an alliance of parties, particularly as they have built up a

[5] [redacted]
[6] http://www.alliance4unity.uk/
[7] [redacted]

media presence on the basis of their previous applicant party name, Alliance 4 Unity.

g. Furthermore, the constitution continues to refer to the party as 'A4U', the same acronym the party uses to refer to 'Alliance 4 Unity'.
h. It is therefore my view that the party do not intend to distance themselves from the notion of being an alliance of parties, even if registered as 'All For Unity'.

72. These concerns were also raised in a public comment, made on 24 November 2020.

> *'Who is 'All'? So far no other party has signed up to any kind of alliance.'*[8]

73. I am not of the view that 'All' necessarily indicates a group of parties.
74. I am of the view that the group of electors most likely to understand All For Unity as an alliance, are those who have seen campaign material for the party.
    a. If an elector had not seen campaign material for the applicant party prior to seeing their name on a ballot paper, I do not think it is likely that they would equate 'All For Unity' to an alliance of parties.
    b. I believe these electors would be more likely to interpret it as a general expression of support for a concept or ideology.
    c. The following registered parties could be considered as pro-Scottish unionism:

Party	Sources
Scottish Unionist Party	• [redacted]
The For Britain Movement	• https://www.forbritain.uk/ • [redacted]
Conservative and Unionist Party	• https://www.ft.com/content/169e9ebc-105d-11ea-a7e6-62bf4f9e548a • https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/staggers/2020/01/conservatives-are-finally-developing-serious-plan-stop-scottish • https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-51521277

[8] The comment can be read in full in the Public comments section of this assessment.

Labour Party	• https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/labour-campaign-against-another-scottish-22547514 • https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/politics/uk-politics/2242928/scottish-labour-will-oppose-second-independence-referendum-in-2021-holyrood-election-campaign/
Liberal Democrats	• https://www.libdemvoice.org/why-scottish-liberal-democrats-oppose-a-second-indyref-65361.html • https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/lib-dems-vow-vote-against-scottish-independence-every-opportunity-1401046 • https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/letters/liberal-democrats-chuka-ummuna-scotland-brexit-democracy-david-cameron-a9107006.html • https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50600212
Britannica	• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Britannica_Party

d. At this stage, there is no evidence that the applicant party has entered into an alliance with any other party.
e. Therefore, based on the facts available to us at this time, the name itself is not misleading, as the name does not indicate an alliance, and the party is not part of an alliance.
f. Furthermore, if an elector had seen campaign material for the party and understood 'All For Unity' to represent an alliance of parties, it is likely they are also informed about which parties All For Unity is, or is not, in alliance with.

75. An elector could be misled as to the effect of their vote if:
    - The applicant party are not successful in forming any alliance with other parties, and
    - An elector has seen party campaign material and understand that the applicant party are seeking to position themselves as an alliance, but is not informed as to know which parties the applicant party is connected with;
      OR
    - The party is successful in forming an alliance with parties, and
    - An elector votes for the applicant party without having seen campaign material, or being aware of the parties involved.

76. Although both sets of circumstances set out above have the potential to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote, I think the risk of them coming to fruition is relatively low.

Considerations for the proposed name being likely to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote

77. The party have not demonstrated, for instance through their constitution, that they intend to be structured in a formal alliance with other parties.
    a. Although, in my view, the name 'All For Unity', and in particular the phrase 'All For', continue to imply a collective group, it does not necessarily indicate a formal alliance of parties, which was previously considered as the situation most likely to lead to an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.
    b. Indeed, there are a number of parties currently registered which use the phrasing 'Alliance for…'.[9]
    c. The registration of these party names has demonstrated the use of 'Alliance for…' in the party name is not indicative of an alliance of parties, with the potential to be considered misleading.
78. As the party have now amended their name, for the reasons set out above, the name itself does not demonstrate the party are acting as an alliance.
79. Although the party may intend to exist as an alliance of parties, caution should be applied when considering identifiers based on the aspirations that an identifier may be expressing.
    a. [redacted]
    b. I have therefore made my recommendation based on the facts of the case available to me.
80. The party have not applied for a name which has wording that indicates an alliance.
81. There are no provisions in the governance documents of the party that indicate that the party intends to structure itself as a formal alliance.
82. Although the party's campaign material indicates an intention to work in alliance with other parties, there is no evidence for any alliances having been formed at this point.
    a. We do not regulate the content of campaign material and there is no legal obligation for a campaigner to factually substantiate any claims made within.
83. Considering 80 – 82 and the facts available to us, I do not consider the name to meet the threshold of being considered likely to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote.
84. On balance, therefore, I am of the view that were the applicant party name to be registered, an elector is not likely to be misled as to the effect of their vote.
85. I am of the view that registration of the identifier **is not likely** to result in electors confusing the applicant party with another registered party.

[9] Search of 'Alliance for' on the Electoral Commission register

[10] [redacted]

a. Below are the most similar identifiers currently on the register.

OAK, Mary (address in the Constituency) Scottish Unionist Party	
ASH, James (address in the Constituency) All For Unity	
PINE, Susan (address in the Constituency) Political Unity for Progress	
ELM, David (address in the Constituency) Unity in Action[11]	

b. There is sufficient visual difference between the applicant party name and identifiers on the register, that I do not believe that an elector would be confused on these grounds.
c. There is contextual similarity between the applicant party name and identifiers currently on the register, namely in the shared used of the word 'Unity'.
d. The contextual similarities also apply between 'Unity' and 'Unionist', given that the applicant party's use of the word 'Unity' is understood to refer to Scottish unionism.
e. However, there are a number of example of multiple parties being registered, where party names share contextual similarity on the basis of a shared ideology or political belief.
    i. 'Unionist' to refer to unionism of the United Kingdom.[12] [13]
    ii. There are four political parties registered whose names contain the word 'Liberal'.[14]
f. There is, therefore, a possibility that an elector could confuse the applicant party name with an identifier currently on the register on grounds of contextual confusion.

[11] Unity in Action has since been statutorily deregistered, but the identity marks remain protected until 31 December 2020.
[12] Register search
[13] Two registered parties use the word 'Unionist' in the context of Trade Unions.
[14] Register search

g. However, it do not consider this likely, on the basis that multiple parties already registered have similar names based on a shared ideology or political belief, and I do not believe that an elector would be likely to confuse the applicant party with another registered party on these grounds.

86. The proposed identifier **is not more** than six words.

87. The proposed identifier, in my view, **is not** obscene or offensive.

88. The proposed identifier, in my view, if published is **not likely** amount to the commission of an offence.

89. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **not likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to contradict, or hinder an elector's understanding of, any directions for their guidance in voting.

90. The proposed identifier **does not** include any script other than Roman Script.

91. The proposed identifier **does not** include a word or expression prohibited by order made by the Secretary of State.

Descriptions

Description 1

Proposed description	All for Unity - No to Separatism
Recommendation	**Approve**
Summary reason	Meets the requirements of a description under PPERA.

92. In making my recommendation I have considered the factors set out in the following paragraphs.

93. I **am satisfied** that the proposed description amounts to a description under PPERA.

94. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **would not be likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to result in an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.

95. The proposed identifier **is not the same** as another identifier on the register.

96. I am of the view that registration of the identifier **is not likely** to result in electors confusing the applicant party with another registered party.

    a. The proposed identifier includes the party name in full.

    b. I do not believe that the inclusion or placement of the phrase 'No to Separatism' is likely to obscure the identity of the applicant party, or result in an elector confusing the applicant party with another registered party.

97. The proposed identifier **is not more** than six words.

98. The proposed identifier, in my view, **is not** obscene or offensive.

99. The proposed identifier, in my view, if published is **not likely** amount to the commission of an offence.

100. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **not likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to contradict, or hinder an elector's understanding of, any directions for their guidance in voting.

101. The proposed identifier **does not** include any script other than Roman Script.

102. The proposed identifier **does not** include a word or expression prohibited by order made by the Secretary of State.

Description 2

Proposed description	All 4 Unity - No to Separatism
Recommendation	**Approve**
Summary reason	Meets the requirements of a description under PPERA.

103. In making my recommendation I have considered the factors set out in the following paragraphs.

104. I **am satisfied** that the proposed description amounts to a description under PPERA.

105. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **would not be likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to result in an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.

106. The proposed identifier **is not the same** as another identifier on the register.

107. I am of the view that registration of the identifier **is not likely** to result in electors confusing the applicant party with another registered party.

a. The proposed identifier includes the party name in full, replacing the word 'For' with the number '4'.

b. I do not believe that the inclusion or placement of the phrase 'No to Separatism' is likely to obscure the identity of the applicant party, or result in an elector confusing the applicant party with another registered party

108. The proposed identifier **is not more** than six words.

109. The proposed identifier, in my view, **is not** obscene or offensive.

110. The proposed identifier, in my view, if published is **not likely** amount to the commission of an offence.

111. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **not likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to contradict, or hinder an elector's understanding of, any directions for their guidance in voting.

a. Our guidance states that: “We may register a party identity mark that uses numerals in the middle of the name, depending on how they are used and whether it is likely to mislead voters.” I have therefore considered whether a voter is likely to believe that this number is being used to instruct voting, particularly in an election where voters are asked to rank candidates.

b. In my view, the numeral **4** is being used in a way that would not hinder a voter’s understand of voting instructions. This is because it is being used in place of the word **For**. This usage would be easily and clearly understood by a voter. A voter would not be likely to think it related to voting instruction.

112. The proposed identifier **does not** include any script other than Roman Script.

The proposed identifier **does not** include a word or expression prohibited by order made by the Secretary of State.

Description 3

Proposed description	All for Unity (George Galloway)
Recommendation	**Reject**
Summary reason	Likely to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote.

113. In making my recommendation I have considered the factors set out in the following paragraphs.

114. I **am satisfied** that the proposed description amounts to a description under PPERA.

115. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **would be likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to result in an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.

a. The proposed identifier contains the name of an individual associated with the applicant party.

b. Mr Galloway is a prominent political figure within the applicant party.

i. Mr Galloway have previously been involved in a number of other parties, including as an MP for Labour Party and The Respect Party.

ii. In addition, Mr Galloway is currently a registered officer for Workers Party of Britain, whose registration covers Scotland.

iii. It is therefore possible that the inclusion of Mr Galloway’s name in the identifier would lead an elector to be misled as to the effect of their vote, particularly due to his current association with another party on the register.

c. The policy position of the Commission is that the inclusion of a name other than a candidate has the potential to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote. [15]
    i. It seems likely that the party, if they were registered, would stand candidates at Scottish Parliamentary Elections.
    ii. In Scottish Parliamentary Elections, there is a constituency vote, in which electors cast votes for a specific candidate.
    iii. If the applicant party were to stand candidates in the constituency vote under the proposed identifier, it would likely be misleading to a voter if the candidate were anyone other than George Galloway.
    iv. **Update by [redacted] 30/12/2020:** In addition, parties can also use descriptions on regional list ballot papers for Scottish Parliamentary elections, which would contain the names of other candidates standing on behalf of the party. There may be confusion for voters if George Galloway's name, if he were to also stand as a candidate, appeared within the description but not in the list(s) of candidates for the region(s) where he was not standing.
d. For the reasons set out above, I am of the view if the proposed identifier were to appear on a ballot paper, it would be likely to result in an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.

116. The proposed identifier **is not the same** as another identifier on the register.

117. I am of the view that registration of the identifier **is not likely** to result in electors confusing the applicant party with another registered party.

118. The proposed identifier **is not more** than six words.

119. The proposed identifier, in my view, **is not** obscene or offensive.

120. The proposed identifier, in my view, if published is **not likely** amount to the commission of an offence.

121. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **not likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to contradict, or hinder an elector's understanding of, any directions for their guidance in voting. [16]

122. The proposed identifier **does not** include any script other than Roman Script.

123. The proposed identifier **does not** include a word or expression prohibited by order made by the Secretary of State.

[15] This consideration most recently applied to a proposed description of Plaid Cymru. The decision was taken to refuse the description.
[16] This consideration most recently applied to a proposed description of Plaid Cymru. The decision was taken to refuse the description.

Description 4

Proposed description	All 4 Unity (George Galloway)
Recommendation	**Reject**
Summary reason	Likely to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote.

124. In making my recommendation I have considered the factors set out in the following paragraphs.

125. I **am satisfied** that the proposed description amounts to a description under PPERA.

126. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **would be likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to result in an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.

a. The proposed identifier contains the name of an individual associated with the applicant party.

b. Mr Galloway is a prominent political figure within the applicant party.

iv. Mr Galloway have previously been involved in a number of other parties, including as an MP for Labour Party and The Respect Party.

v. In addition, Mr Galloway is currently a registered officer for Workers Party of Britain, whose registration covers Scotland.

vi. It is therefore possible that the inclusion of Mr Galloway's name in the identifier would lead an elector to be misled as to the effect of their vote, particularly due to his current association with another party on the register.

c. The policy position of the Commission is that the inclusion of a name other than a candidate has the potential to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote. [17]

v. It seems likely that the party, if they were registered, would stand candidates at Scottish Parliamentary Elections.

vi. In Scottish Parliamentary Elections, there is a constituency vote, in which electors cast votes for a specific candidate.

vii. If the applicant party were to stand candidates in the constituency vote under the proposed identifier, it would likely be misleading to a voter if the candidate were anyone other than George Galloway.

viii. **Update by [redacted] 30/12/2020:** In addition, parties can also use descriptions on regional list ballot papers for Scottish Parliamentary elections, which would contain the names of other candidates standing on behalf of the party. There may be confusion for voters if George Galloway's name, if he were to

[17] This consideration most recently applied to a proposed description of Plaid Cymru. The decision was taken to refuse the description.

also stand as a candidate, appeared within the description but not in the list(s) of candidates for the region(s) where he was not standing.

d. For the reasons set out above, I am of the view if the proposed identifier were to appear on a ballot paper, it would be likely to result in an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.

127. The proposed identifier **is not the same** as another identifier on the register.

128. I am of the view that registration of the identifier **is not likely** to result in electors confusing the applicant party with another registered party.

129. The proposed identifier **is not more** than six words.

130. The proposed identifier, in my view, **is not** obscene or offensive.

131. The proposed identifier, in my view, if published is **not likely** amount to the commission of an offence.

132. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **not likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to contradict, or hinder an elector's understanding of, any directions for their guidance in voting.

a. Our guidance states that: "We may register a party identity mark that uses numerals in the middle of the name, depending on how they are used and whether it is likely to mislead voters." I have therefore considered whether a voter is likely to believe that this number is being used to instruct voting, particularly in an election where voters are asked to rank candidates.

i. In my view, the numeral **4** is being used in a way that would not hinder a voter's understand of voting instructions. This is because it is being used in place of the word **For**. This usage would be easily and clearly understood by a voter. A voter would not be likely to think it related to voting instruction.

h. The proposed identifier **does not** include any script other than Roman Script.

i. The proposed identifier **does not** include a word or expression prohibited by order made by the Secretary of State.

Description 5

Proposed description	All 4 Unity
Recommendation	**Approve**
Summary reason	Meets the requirements of a description under PPERA.

133. In making my recommendation I have considered the factors set out in the following paragraphs.

134. I **am satisfied** that the proposed description amounts to a description under PPERA.

a. There are a number of parties on the register, with descriptions registered, where the only difference between a party name and a corresponding description is the inclusion or removal of the word ‘The’.

b. Although the only difference between the proposed identifier and the party name is replacing the word ‘For’ with the number ‘4’, I am satisfied that we should not consider the identifier as being the same as the party name.

135. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **would not be likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to result in an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.

136. The proposed identifier **is not the same** as another identifier on the register.

137. I am of the view that registration of the identifier **is not likely** to result in electors confusing the applicant party with another registered party.

138. The proposed identifier **is not more** than six words.

139. The proposed identifier, in my view, **is not** obscene or offensive.

140. The proposed identifier, in my view, if published is **not likely** amount to the commission of an offence.

141. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **not likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to contradict, or hinder an elector’s understanding of, any directions for their guidance in voting.

a. Our guidance states that: “We may register a party identity mark that uses numerals in the middle of the name, depending on how they are used and whether it is likely to mislead voters.” I have therefore considered whether a voter is likely to believe that this number is being used to instruct voting, particularly in an election where voters are asked to rank candidates.

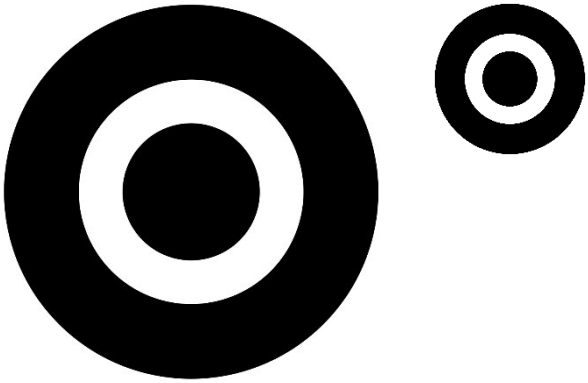
b. In my view, the numeral **4** is being used in a way that would not hinder a voter’s understand of voting instructions. This is because it is being used in place of the word **For**. This usage would be easily and clearly understood by a voter. A voter would not be likely to think it related to voting instruction.

142. The proposed identifier **does not** include any script other than Roman Script.

143. The proposed identifier **does not** include a word or expression prohibited by order made by the Secretary of State.

Emblems

Emblem 1

Proposed emblem	
Recommendation	**Approve**
Summary reason	Meets the requirements of an emblem under PPERA.

144. In making my recommendation I have considered the factors set out in the following paragraphs.

145. I **am satisfied** that the proposed identity mark amounts to an emblem under PPERA.

   a. The proposed identity mark **does** primarily comprise a pictorial or symbolic element.

146. The proposed emblem **does meet** the text size requirement set out in the Commission's guidance and is therefore not likely to mislead a voter as to the effect of their vote.

147. The proposed identifier **is not the same** as another identifier on the register.

148. I am of the view that registration of the identifier **is not likely** / **is likely** to result in electors confusing the applicant party with another registered party.

   a. I have searched the registered emblems to examine whether the proposed emblem is likely to cause confusion with another registered identity mark and could not find an emblem that could be considered confusing.

   b.  - Registered identifier for Life.

   c.  - Registered identity mark for Rebooting Democracy

d.  - Registered identity mark for The Democratic Party

e.  - registered identity mark for Workers Party of Great Britain

f. There are a number of registered emblems (outline above) which predominantly share a similar feature. However, each emblem is stylistically different, i.e. shape and additional markings. I am satisfied that the emblems are not the same.

149. The proposed identifier **is not more** than six words.

150. The proposed identifier, in my view, **is not** obscene or offensive.

151. The proposed identifier, in my view, if published is **not likely** amount to the commission of an offence.

152. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **not likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to result in an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.

a. I have conducted a reverse image search of the proposed emblem.[18]
   i. I do not believe that any of the results return highlight a need for further analysis in regards to an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.
b. The proposed emblem has visual similarities with the Royal Air Force roundel insignia.
c. This comment was also raised by member of the public.[19]
d. The party included a colour version of their proposed emblem in their application, and this colour version is also used in campaign material of the party.
e. The colour scheme and design used in the colour version of the emblem is almost identical to that of the RAF roundel design

i.  Proposed emblem

ii.  RAF roundel

f. If an elector had seen campaign material of the applicant party printed in colour, I think it is a possibility that they may be led to believe that the applicant is associated with the RAF.

[18] https://tineye.com/search/7880156c692877d2e10851167305496fe5a910a4?sort=score&order=desc&page=1

[19] The comment can be read in the Public comments section of the assessment.

g. However, the roundel design is used by a number of other organisation/companies, notably a number of fashion labels.
h. The Ministry of Defence attempted to trademark use of the roundel, but the Trade Marks Registry rejected this claim.[20]
i. The judgement stated:

'the public at large… are not likely to see the mark in suit as an indicator of trade origin, but rather as a decorative motif, which they could associate with the Mods, the Royal Air Force or a variety of suppliers, but not in the context of any being the undertaking whose goods are solely identified by the mark.' [21]

j. There are already a number of registered political parties that identify themselves as having military links, namely Veterans and People's Party, and Democrats and Veterans Direct Democracy Party. [22] [23]
k. It is therefore, in my view, more plausible that an elector would consider the proposed emblem as having a military connection than being associated with a fashion label.
l. However, on balance, and taking into account the comments made in the 2004 Trade Marks Registry judgement, I believe that the roundel design is just as likely to be viewed as a decorative motif, than as an indicator of association with any specific organisation or brand.
m. I therefore do not believe that registration of the proposed emblem is likely to result in an elector being misled as to the effect of their vote.

153. The proposed identifier, in my view, is **not likely**, were it to appear on a ballot paper, to contradict, or hinder an elector's understanding of, any directions for their guidance in voting.

154. The proposed identifier **does not** include any script other than Roman Script.

155. The proposed identifier **does not** include a word or expression prohibited by order made by the Secretary of State.

[20] https://www.marketingweek.com/retailers-block-raf-bid-to-trademark-its-roundel/
[21] https://www.ipo.gov.uk/t-challenge-decision-results/o01004.pdf
[22] http://search.electoralcommission.org.uk/English/Registrations/PP6719
[23] http://search.electoralcommission.org.uk/English/Registrations/PP6664

Register searches

Table 1: Similarity score results

156. The following table lists identifiers that are similar to the proposed name or descriptions according to an electronic matching process. The higher the value, the higher the similarity.

157. I undertook the search on the GB (Scotland) register.

Proposed ID Marks	ID Mark	Type	Party registered to	Register	Protected until	Similarity
All For Unity	Political Unity for Progress	Name	Political Unity for Progress	Great Britain	-	0.5288
All For Unity	Sustainable Prosperity for All	Description	Life	Great Britain	-	0.5275
All For Unity	Equality and Prosperity For All	Description	Space Navies Party	Great Britain	-	0.5227
All For Unity	Unity For Peace And Socialism	Name	Unity For Peace And Socialism	Great Britain	-	0.5223
All For Unity	Political Unity for Progress Candidate	Description	Political Unity for Progress	Great Britain	-	0.5215
All For Unity	Peace and Prosperity For All	Description	Space Navies Party	Great Britain	-	0.5205
All For Unity	The Political Unity for Progress Candidate	Description	Political Unity for Progress	Great Britain	-	0.5175
All for Unity - No to Separatism	No Brexit	Description	Alliance EPP (European People's Party) UK	Great Britain	-	0.4778
All 4 Unity - No to Separatism	No Brexit	Description	Alliance EPP (European People's Party) UK	Great Britain	-	0.4730
All for Unity - No to Separatism	Left Unity	Name	Left Unity	Great Britain	-	0.4323

Table 2: Identity marks that contain words in the proposed identity marks

158. I have conducted a search to identify where words contained in the proposed descriptions and emblems appear on the registers.

159. I undertook the searches on the GB (Scotland) register.

160. I did not search the following words: for, 4, to.

Word searched for: [All]		
ID Mark	**Type**	**Party registered to**
Alliance EPP (European People's Party) UK	Name	Alliance EPP (European People's Party) UK
Alliance for Britain's 4 Freedoms Future	Description	Alliance EPP (European People's Party) UK
Alliance for Europe	Name	Alliance for Europe
Alliance for Europe in Wales	Description	Alliance for Europe
The Alliance for Europe Candidate	Description	Alliance for Europe
Alliance For Green Socialism	Name	Alliance For Green Socialism
Alliance for Green Socialism - Save Homes	Description	Alliance For Green Socialism
Alliance For Green Socialism - Save NHS	Description	Alliance For Green Socialism
Alliance For Green Socialism - Save Schools	Description	Alliance For Green Socialism
Left Green Alliance	Description	Alliance For Green Socialism
Christian Peoples Alliance	Name	Christian Peoples Alliance
Christian Peoples Alliance - Cynghrair Pobl Gristnogol	Description	Christian Peoples Alliance

Christian Peoples Alliance - Supporting Traditional Marriage	Description	Christian Peoples Alliance
Equal Parenting Alliance	Name	Equal Parenting Alliance
Free and inclusive education for All	Description	Left Unity
Sustainable Prosperity for All	Description	Life
National Liberal Party - Self-determination for all!	Description	National Liberal Party - True Liberalism
Newclear Outline small footprint Beautiful Horizons	Description	Newclear Outline (NO)
Populist Alliance	Description	Populist Party
Scotland's Left Alliance	Description	RISE - Respect, Independence, Socialism and Environmentalism
Scottish Democratic Alliance	Name	Scottish Democratic Alliance
Scottish Family Party - Challenging Political Correctness	Description	Scottish Family Party
Scottish Family Party - challenging the consensus	Description	Scottish Family Party
Equality and Prosperity For All	Description	Space Navies Party
Peace and Prosperity For All	Description	Space Navies Party
The Space Navies Is For All	Description	Space Navies Party
Liberal Party In Cornwall	Description	The Liberal Party
Walsall Socialist and Trade Union Candidate	Description	Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition
Alliance for Democracy and Freedom	Name	Alliance for Democracy and Freedom

Word searched for: [Unity]		
ID Mark	**Type**	**Party registered to**

The Centrist Party: Equality of opportunity	Description	The Centrist Party
At the heart of our community	Description	British National Party
Community Campaign (Hart)	Name	Community Campaign (Hart)
Left Unity	Name	Left Unity
Political Unity for Progress	Name	Political Unity for Progress
Political Unity for Progress Candidate	Description	Political Unity for Progress
The Political Unity for Progress Candidate	Description	Political Unity for Progress
Your Political Unity for Progress Candidate	Description	Political Unity for Progress
Left Unity - Trade Unionists and Socialists (Joint Description with Left Unity)	Description	Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition
Unity For Peace And Socialism	Name	Unity For Peace And Socialism
Unity in Action	Name	Unity in Action
West Dunbartonshire Community Party	Name	West Dunbartonshire Community Party
Working for our local community	Description	West Dunbartonshire Community Party

Word searched for: [No]		
ID Mark	**Type**	**Party registered to**
A Better Way to Environmental Economics	Description	A Better Way to Govern
Abolish Scottish Parliament - No More Referendums	Description	Abolish the Scottish Parliament Party
Abolish Scottish Parliament - No Second Referendum	Description	Abolish the Scottish Parliament Party
Abolish Scottish Parliament - Services not Salaries	Description	Abolish the Scottish Parliament Party

Abolish Scottish Parliament - We've Had Enough	Description	Abolish the Scottish Parliament Party
No Brexit	Description	Alliance EPP (European People's Party) UK
Globalisation not isolation	Description	Alliance for Europe
No Bedroom Tax	Description	Alliance For Green Socialism
No Bedroom Tax, Build Council Houses	Description	Alliance For Green Socialism
Christian Peoples Alliance - Cynghrair Pobl Gristnogol	Description	Christian Peoples Alliance
Cynghrair Pobl Gristnogol	Description	Christian Peoples Alliance
Foundation Party - No Brexit Betrayal	Description	Foundation Party
Independent Green Voice - (Convenor: Alistair McConnachie)	Description	Independent Green Voice
Independent Green Voice - Localism Not Globalism	Description	Independent Green Voice
North East Independent Network	Description	Independent Network
North West Independent Network	Description	Independent Network
Interactive Democracy – Distributed Ledger Technology	Description	Interactive Democracy
Choose kids, not cuts	Description	Labour Party
for equality and no to discrimination	Description	Left Unity
jobs not bombs	Description	Left Unity
Elections are farcical, end this nonsense	Description	Movement for Active Democracy (M.A.D.)
Patients not Profits	Description	National Health Action Party
Patients not profits in our NHS	Description	National Health Action Party
National Liberal Party - No To Overdevelopment	Description	National Liberal Party - True Liberalism
Newclear Outline (NO)	Name	Newclear Outline (NO)
Newclear Outline Not Big Blade Ugly	Description	Newclear Outline (NO)
Newclear Outline Not Big Ugly Renewables	Description	Newclear Outline (NO)

Newclear Outline Not Establishment Supporting Renewables	Description	Newclear Outline (NO)
Newclear Outline Not Grid Parasitic Renewables	Description	Newclear Outline (NO)
Newclear Outline Not Luddite Renewables Decline	Description	Newclear Outline (NO)
Newclear Outline Not Useless Renewables	Description	Newclear Outline (NO)
Newclear Outline Not Vast Solar Ugly	Description	Newclear Outline (NO)
Nova Forte	Name	Nova Forte
English Nova Forte	Description	Nova Forte
English Nova Forte Candidate	Description	Nova Forte
Nova Forte Candidate	Description	Nova Forte
Scottish Nova Forte	Description	Nova Forte
Scottish Nova Forte Candidate	Description	Nova Forte
The Nova Forte Candidate	Description	Nova Forte
Welsh Nova Forte	Description	Nova Forte
Welsh Nova Forte Candidate	Description	Nova Forte
Psychedelic Future Party: Psychedelic Economy	Description	Psychedelic Future Party
Lower Taxes for Economic Growth	Description	Scottish Democratic Alliance
Ban Fracking Now	Description	Scottish Green Party
Maggie Chapman for North East Scotland	Description	Scottish Green Party
Citizens not subjects	Description	Scottish Socialist Party
Scottish Socialist Party – People not profit	Description	Scottish Socialist Party
We Want The Future Now	Description	Space Navies Party
The Peace Party - Non-violence, Justice, Environment	Name	The Peace Party - Non-violence, Justice, Environment
None deserted	Description	Transhumanist Party
Positive social change through technology	Description	Transhumanist Party
...no policies just your voice!	Description	Yourvoice

Word searched for: [Separatism]		
ID Mark	**Type**	**Party registered to**
N/A	N/A	N/A

Word searched for: [George]		
ID Mark	**Type**	**Party registered to**
N/A	N/A	N/A

Word searched for: [Galloway]		
ID Mark	**Type**	**Party registered to**
N/A	N/A	N/A

Public comments

All comments are original and verbatim. All comments are tracked to the RP1 case.

Commenter	Comment
24 November 2020 - [redacted] [redacted]	Dear Sirs I note that having had the name 'Alliance 4 Unity' rejected George Galloway is now attempting to register the party name 'All 4 Unity' I have a few concerns: - Who is 'All'? So far no other party has signed up to any kind of alliance. - How can Galloway claim 'unity' when he intends to stand against a strong Labour candidate and previous holder of the Rutherglen and Hamilton West seat? Does he think labour will magically forget by May 2021? I don't think Galloway can make any sensible claim to being a unity party or unity candidate. - Galloway is already fundraising despite no by-election being called to date, and no sucessful party registration to date. Will these funds be outside EC scrutiny? - The colour version of All 4 Unity logo bears strong resemblance to the RAF Roundel logo. This may be confusing for potential voters who may assume some affiliation. Yours [redacted]

Go to contents

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 14 December 2020 17:48
To: Andy O'Neill
Subject: FW: PR20-46 application summary initial view CCM:0288414

Hi Andy,

Hope all is well.

I was wondering whether you might have a bit of time tomorrow afternoon or Wednesday to have a quick chat about All For Unity?

I had a phone call with [redacted] today in relation to the discussion below. As a result of our phone call, I'll likely adding some further analysis to the AFU assessment.

I thought it might be worth having a short phone call just to make sure we're on the same page before I do so, and then if there's anything else you wanted me to consider at the same time as adding the further analysis, I can do so.

Let me know if there's a time that suits.

Thanks,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 December 2020 19:38
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Andy O'Neill [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: PR20-46 application summary initial view CCM:0288414

Hi [redacted]

I tried to get hold of you yesterday afternoon with no luck and I'm afraid I've only got to sending this email rather late in the day today.

[redacted]

I think it would definitely be useful to have a quick chat about this, I'm on leave tomorrow though. Perhaps we can catch up on this early next week? I'll try you on Monday unless there's a particular day/time that you would suggest.

Thanks,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 09 December 2020 09:11
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Andy O'Neill [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: PR20-46 application summary initial view CCM:0288414

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 08 December 2020 18:46
To: Andy O'Neill [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: PR20-46 application summary initial view CCM:0288414

Hi Andy,

Thanks for your email.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission

[redacted]

electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Andy O'Neill [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 07 December 2020 06:48
To: [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>; Louise Edwards [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: PR20-46 application summary initial view CCM:0288414

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04 December 2020 19:32
To: Louise Edwards [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>; Andy O'Neill [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: PR20-46 application summary initial view CCM:0288414

Apologies Andy, there is one for you in this summary. Highlighted below.

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Partyreg
Sent: 04 December 2020 19:11
To: Louise Edwards [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: PR20-46 application summary initial view CCM:0288414

Hi Louise,

Here is the latest application summary:

Party name	Type of assessment	Comments or decision required
All For Unity	New party application	Initial view
British National Party	Amended constitution	Decision
Bucks Residents Association	Change of party name	Initial view
Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Independents (CANDI)	Amended constitution	Decision
Christian Democratic Party	New emblems	Decision
Independents for Rame and Maker (INFORM)	New minor party application	Initial view
Proud of Oldham & Saddleworth	New emblems	Initial view
UK Independence Party (UKIP)	New descriptions	Initial view

Could I have your initial comments by Wednesday or let me know if you will require more time?

regards,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

E-mail

2020-11-24 [redacted]

Sent Date 16/12/2020 15:09

E-mail

From	Partyreg	**Cc**	
To	[redacted]	**Bcc**	
Subject	2020-11-24 [redacted] - 'All 4 Unity' George Galloway application CCM:0488835		

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your comment relating to the current application to register All For Unity. We will consider your comment as part of our decision making process.

We assess all registration applications against the statutory requirements outlined in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). You can find guidance about the requirements for registering a political party, including how we apply the relevant tests, on our website.

We will publish the details of our decision once it has been made on our website. You can find a form on that page if you would like to comment on any of the applications that we are considering.

We do not comment on the progress of ongoing applications, including the likelihood of an application being approved.

In regards to your question regarding fundraising, you can find information about the regulation of donations and loans to registered political parties, and other regulated organisations and individuals, on our website.

If you have any further questions on the final matter, I would suggest you contact the Financial Reporting team by email on [redacted]**@electoralcommission.org.uk**

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 24 November 2020 03:13
To: Partyreg <Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: 'All 4 Unity' George Galloway application

Dear Sirs

I note that having had the name 'Alliance 4 Unity' rejected George Galloway is now attempting to register the party name 'All 4 Unity'

I have a few concerns:

- Who is 'All'? So far no other party has signed up to any kind of alliance.

- How can Galloway claim 'unity' when he intends to stand against a strong Labour candidate and previous holder of the Rutherglen and Hamilton West seat? Does he think labour will magically forget by May 2021? I don't think Galloway can make any sensible claim to being a unity party or unity candidate.

- Galloway is already fundraising despite no by-election being called to date, and no sucessful party registration to date. Will these funds be outside EC scrutiny?

- The colour version of All 4 Unity logo bears strong resemblance to the RAF Roundel logo. This may be confusing for potential voters who may assume some affiliation.

Yours

[redacted]

Regarding	[redacted]
Owner	[redacted]
Keywords	
Duration	Priority Normal
Due	
Category	Sub-Category

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category	PEF Category

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
No E-Mail Attachment records are available in this view.	

0 - 0 of 0 (0 selected) Page 1

[redacted]

E-mail

RE: All For Unity - A...

Sent Date 14/01/2021 14:03

E-mail

From Andy O'Neill **Cc** [redacted]

To [redacted] **Bcc**

Subject RE: All For Unity - Application decision

Thanks

From: [redacted]
Sent: 14 January 2021 14:00
To: Andy O'Neill [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision

Thanks Andy, I have added your redrafting into the draft decision letter, and also worded the may/would be likely sentence you highlight to reflect the wording of PPERA. Your redrafted section now reads:

Our view is that the description is likely to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote.

Parties can also use descriptions on regional list ballot papers for Scottish Parliamentary elections. In our opinion, the inclusion of George Galloway's name in the description would be likely to result in electors being misled as to the effect of their vote if he were to stand as a candidate in the election, and the proposed description were used for a region(s) where he was not standing.

Let me know if there's any issues with that.

[redacted] - I've also added some reference to the specific provisions of the constitution that are not compliant, as per your comment.

I imagine you might want to give it a last read over anyway, and if there's any further amendments to make, give me a shout.

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Andy O'Neill [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 14 January 2021 13:04
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision

Thanks. Yes happy although I think you have slightly confussed the description rejection reason.

I have redrafted to;

Our view is that the description is likely to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote. Parties can also use descriptions on regional list ballot papers for Scottish Parliamentary elections. The inclusion of George Galloway's name in the description may (Does this not have to be likely)result in electors being misled as to the effect of their vote if he were to stand as a candidate in the election, and the proposed description were used for a region(s) where he was not standing.

I have deleted a sentence as list names don't appear on the regional ballot although there is a poster in the polling place and supplied with the PV pack.

Andy

From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 January 2021 12:44
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; **Andy O'Neill**
[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision

Hi [redacted]

Ive saved a draft of your letter Here.

Just one comment on the doc itself from me. Also, for the reasons for rejecting the descriptions, these probably fit better under the ballot paper instructions test, rather than specifically the mislead test (this would be consistent with what's in our guidance on page 16). Andy, would you be happy to confirm this for when we're communicating the decision?

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Partyreg
Sent: 11 January 2021 19:11
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: All For Unity - Application decision

Hi [redacted]

Please see below my draft decision letter for All For Unity.

If you have any comments or amends, will make sure to pick them up first thing on Wednesday (assuming I'm unable to log on tomorrow).

Cheers

[redacted]

Dear James Giles,

Refusal of your application to register All For Unity

I write to inform you that we have refused your application to register All For Unity. The reason for our decision is outlined in this message. You will also find information about making a fresh application to register if you wish to do so.

Proposed constitution

By law, when a party applies to be registered it must give us a copy of its constitution. Section 26(9) of the Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) defines a constitution as "the document or documents (of whatever name) by which the structure and organisation of the party is determined." A constitution must accurately determine the party's structure and organisation. The constitution must also be compliant with the provision in PPERA, and must be consistent with the party's financial scheme.

Section 31(4)(a) of PPERA sets out that a registered party must notify the Commission of changes to named officers for the party (caused by the death or termination of the appointment of a registered officer of the party) within 14 days.

If the role of Leader were to become vacant for such a reason that the Leader would be unable to appoint their own successor, the party would be unable to replace this officer within the required timeframe of 14 days, unless the position became vacant shortly before the party's AGM.

For the reasons above, we decided that the constitution is not consistent with the party's financial scheme or PPERA, which require notification of officer changes within the legally obligated timeframe. We concluded that your constitution is not complaint with PPERA, and therefore the documents you supplied are not a constitution as defined by PPERA.

On this basis, the proposed constitution was refused.

[redacted]

Proposed financial scheme

Pursuant to section 26(1) of the Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act (PPERA) a party may not be registered unless it has adopted a scheme which "sets out the arrangements for regulating the financial affairs of the party for the purposes of [PPERA]." By law, therefore, applicants must give us a financial scheme that is accurate and consistent with the party's constitution, and must have adopted its scheme.

Provision 1.19 of the party's financial scheme states that the party must notify the Commission of any changes to registered officers within 14 days of the change.

As set out above, in our considerations of the party constitution, we could not be satisfied that in all circumstances, the party would be able to fulfil its legal obligation to notify the Commission of changes to the registered Leader within the 14 day timeframe.

On this basis, we could not be satisfied that the constitution and financial scheme are consistent, and that the party has adopted its scheme.

Since the party has not adopted a scheme as defined by PPERA, we refused the party's application.

Other proposed identity marks

Because your application did not comply with the requirements of PPERA, your party's remaining identity mark(s) did not fall for consideration and so a formal decision has not been made on these.

However, for your assistance, our minded-to view would have been as follows.

	Identity mark	Minded-to decision and rea
Name	All For Unity	Minded to approve.
Description	All for Unity - No to Separatism	Minded to approve.
	All 4 Unity - No to Separatism	Minded to approve.
	All for Unity (George Galloway)	Minded to refuse. Our view is that the descriptio elector as to the effect of their use descriptions on regional li Scottish Parliamentary electio the names of other candidates the party. The inclusion of George Gallo description may result in elect the effect of their vote if he we candidate in the election, and were used for a region(s) whe
		Minded to refuse.

	All 4 Unity (George Galloway)	Our view is that the descriptio elector as to the effect of their use descriptions on regional li Scottish Parliamentary electio the names of other candidates the party. The inclusion of George Gallo description may result in elect the effect of their vote if he we candidate in the election, and were used for a region(s) whe
	All 4 Unity	Minded-to approve.
Emblem	image001.png	Minded-to approve.

Next Steps

It is open to your party to submit a fresh application. As with all applications we will consider whether it meets the statutory requirements in PPERA.

Where we have refused two applications from your party, you must now make a further £150 payment.

Please be aware that we assess applications on a case by case basis against the statutory tests, taking into account relevant information and circumstances at the relevant time. We cannot guarantee presently any decisions, or initial views provided, on an application submitted in the future.

Whilst this message will no doubt be disappointing to you, I trust you will understand that we are obliged to maintain the register consistent with the statutory requirements.

Please contact us if you have any questions about any of the information in this message.

Applying ahead of the 2021 May Polls

If you would like to:
register a new political party;
amend a name for an existing party;
amend or add an emblem; or
add a description
to be included on ballot papers for the elections taking place on 6 May 2021, please ensure that your application is with us by **Sunday 31 January 2021.**

We cannot guarantee that we will make a decision in time on applications submitted after this date for use on ballots papers at the elections.

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In order to contest each type of election, new parties must be registered with us by a certain date. You can find out more information about when these dates are on our website.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

Regarding [redacted]

Owner [redacted]

Keywords

Duration **Priority** **Normal**

Due

Category **Sub-Category**

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category **PEF Category**

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
image001.png	1,296

1 - 1 of 1 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason **Received**

[redacted]

E-mail

Re: All For Unity - A...

Sent Date 15/01/2021 20:11

E-mail

From [redacted] **Cc** James William Beauchamp Blackett

To [redacted] Partyreg **Bcc**

Subject Re: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Thank you [redacted]

As Jamie (Blackett) says, we will resubmit on Monday.

With thanks for your prompt reply,
James Giles

On Fri, 15 Jan 2021 at 18:30, Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk> wrote:

> Dear [redacted]
>
> I am responding to your messages on behalf of Bob Posner and Ailsa Irvine. [redacted]
>
> Whilst the news today will no doubt be disappointing, you will appreciate that we cannot register parties where we are not satisfied that the application satisfies the statutory requirements under PPERA.
>
> You will also see, though, that whilst we cannot approve the constitution at present, there are not many issues that need to be addressed. The sooner, therefore, that you address the issues identified, the sooner your party is likely to be registered. We would be able to discuss the required changes in more detail next week should that be helpful to you.
>
> Finally, with regards to constitutions submitted by others parties, we should point out that we have increased the scrutiny with which we assess registration applications and examine constitutions since 2017. We continue to be a robust regulator of political finance and registrar of political parties. Increasing scrutiny in this way ensures that voters can be confident that parties are capable of operating efficiently as the law requires. You should also be aware that we plan, in due course, to review the constitutions and financial schemes submitted by all currently registered parties to ensure that their documents continue to meet the expected standard.
>
> Yours sincerely,
>
> [redacted]
>
> [redacted]
>
> **The Electoral Commission**
>
> electoralcommission.org.uk
>
> ---
>
> **From: Jamie Blackett** [redacted]
> **Sent: 15 January 2021 16:05**
> **To: Bob Posner** [redacted]**@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
> **Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863**
>
> **Dear Bob,**

[redacted]

As party leader of All For Unity may I just plead with you to see if your officials could expedite our application?

As you may know the Scottish elections are only three and a half months away and this delay does put us at a serious disadvantage. We are handicapped in our ability to raise funds and also sections of the media will not engage with us until we are registered.

It seems harsh that a technical detail in our constitution, which had been passed previously, should now hold us up. We are very happy to change it and the whole thing could be resolved in less than an hour.

In grateful anticipation

Yours sincerely

Jamie Blackett

Leader A4U

From: James Giles [redacted]

Sent: 15 January 2021 15:48
To: [redacted]**@electoralcommission.org.uk**
Cc: Jamie Blackett [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Dear Ailsa,

I hope you are well and don't mind me contacting you. We feel as if we have been hitting our heads against a brick wall with the Commission for some time now - the latest correspondence is below. If you could look into the matter I would be much obliged.

Regards,

James Giles

James Giles

James Giles

Organiser

Alliance 4 Unity

[redacted]

a: **Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD**

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **James Giles** [redacted]
Date: Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 3:47 PM
Subject: Re: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863
To: Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: Jamie Blackett [redacted], [redacted], Marjorie Torrance [redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email and a Happy New Year to you.

I would ask you to please look at the existing constitution of the [redacted] **section 4f, which contains exactly the same clause and was approved as compliant with PPERA in 2017. Can I please ask why this is deemed non-compliant in the case of A4U, but compliant in the case of** [redacted]

In addition, I would draw your attention to clause 5E of our proposed Constitution, which makes clear that the board has the power to 'deal with *all* matters affecting the group and its membership as it sees fit'. Clause 4F is in addition to clause 5E. Should it be the case that the Leader were not able to do so, the board clearly has the power as per clause 5E of our proposed constitution.

Can I please ask you to re-examine our constitution in light of this, and confirm if your rejection stands?

Finally, I would like to express our disappointment that this section and clause, which was also included in our first application, was not brought to our attention as non-compliant the first time you considered our application.

We are quite prepared to change the clause, but we feel it deeply unfair to reject this application on these grounds and force us, in effect, to the back of the queue for potentially three months once again. This is now having a significant negative effect on our party, making fundraising harder and - crucially - the hostile media are using this and creating negative publicity against us.

For ease of reference, I attach the constitution of the [redacted] **which contains the same procedure as the one you have just rejected.**

I await your speedy reply.

Kind regards,

James Giles

--

James Giles

James Giles

Organiser

All 4 Unity

[redacted]

a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Sender notified by
Mailtrack .

On Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 1:27 PM Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk> wrote:

Dear James Giles,

Refusal of your application to register All For Unity

I write to inform you that we have refused your application to register All For Unity. The reason for our decision is outlined in this message. You will also find information about making a fresh application to register if you wish to do so.

Proposed constitution

By law, when a party applies to be registered it must give us a copy of its constitution. Section 26(9) of the Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) defines a constitution as "the document or documents (of whatever name) by which the structure and organisation of the party is determined." A constitution must accurately determine the party's structure and organisation. The constitution must also be compliant with the provision in PPERA, and must be consistent with the party's financial scheme.

Section 31(4)(a) of PPERA sets out that a registered party must notify the Commission of changes to named officers for the party (caused by the death or termination of the appointment of a registered officer of the party) within 14 days.

Provisions 4a – 4f of the party constitution set out the procedures for officer changes, namely that officers are elected at the party's Annual General Meeting.

Provision 4f states that 'if an Officer position becomes vacant, for any reason, the Leader has the power to appoint a successor until the next Annual General Meeting'.

However, if the role of Leader were to become vacant for such a reason that the Leader would be unable to appoint their own successor, the party would be unable to replace this officer within the required timeframe of 14 days, unless the position became vacant shortly before the party's AGM.

For the reasons above, we decided that the constitution is not consistent with the party's financial scheme or PPERA, which require notification of officer changes within the legally obligated timeframe. We concluded that your constitution is not complaint with PPERA, and therefore the documents you supplied are not a constitution as defined by PPERA.

On this basis, the proposed constitution was refused.

Proposed financial scheme

Pursuant to section 26(1) of the Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act (PPERA) a party may not be registered unless it has adopted a scheme which "sets out the arrangements for regulating the financial affairs of the party for the purposes of [PPERA]." By law, therefore, applicants must give us a financial scheme that is accurate and consistent with the party's constitution, and must have adopted its scheme.

Provision 1.19 of the party's financial scheme states that the party must notify the Commission of any changes to registered officers within 14 days of the change.

As set out above, in our considerations of the party constitution, we could not be satisfied that in all circumstances, the party would be able to fulfil its legal obligation to notify the Commission of changes to the registered Leader within the 14 day timeframe.

On this basis, we could not be satisfied that the constitution and financial scheme are consistent, and that the party has adopted its scheme.

Since the party has not adopted a scheme as defined by PPERA, we refused the party's application.

Other proposed identity marks

[redacted]

Because your application did not comply with the requirements of PPERA, your party's remaining identity mark(s) did not fall for consideration and so a formal decision has not been made on these.

However, for your assistance, our minded-to view would have been as follows.

	Identity mark	Minded-to decision and reason if relevant
Name	All For Unity	Minded to approve.
Descriptions	All for Unity - No to Separatism	Minded to approve.
	All 4 Unity - No to Separatism	Minded to approve.
	All for Unity (George Galloway)	Minded to refuse. Our view is that the description is likely t mislead an elector as to the effect of thei vote. Parties can also use descriptions on regi list ballot papers for Scottish Parliament elections. In our opinion, the inclusion of George Galloway's name in the descripti would be likely to result in electors being misled as to the effect of their vote if he to stand as a candidate in the election, a the proposed description were used for a region(s) where he was not standing.
	All 4 Unity (George Galloway)	Minded to refuse. Our view is that the description is likely t mislead an elector as to the effect of thei vote. Parties can also use descriptions on regi list ballot papers for Scottish Parliament elections. In our opinion, the inclusion of George Galloway's name in the descripti would be likely to result in electors being misled as to the effect of their vote if he to stand as a candidate in the election, a the proposed description were used for a region(s) where he was not standing.
	All 4 Unity	Minded-to approve.
Emblem		Minded-to approve.

Next Steps

It is open to your party to submit a fresh application. As with all applications we will consider whether it meets the statutory requirements in PPERA.

Where we have refused two applications from your party, you must now make a further £150 payment.

Please be aware that we assess applications on a case by case basis against the statutory tests, taking into account relevant information and circumstances at the relevant time. We cannot guarantee presently any decisions, or initial views provided, on an application submitted in the future.

Whilst this message will no doubt be disappointing to you, I trust you will understand that we are obliged to maintain the register consistent with the statutory requirements.

Please contact us if you have any questions about any of the information in this message.

Applying ahead of the 2021 May Polls

If you would like to:

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amend a name for an existing party;
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In order to contest each type of election, new parties must be registered with us by a certain date. You can find out more information about when these dates are on our website.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission

electoralcommission.org.uk

Sender notified by Mailtrack . .

--

James Giles [redacted]

James Giles

[redacted]

Regarding [redacted]

Owner [redacted]

[redacted]

Keywords

Duration **Priority** Normal

Due

Category **Sub-Category**

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category **PEF Category**

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
image001.gif	1,956

1 - 1 of 1 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason Received

E-mail

RE: All For Unity - A...

Sent Date 15/01/2021 18:32

E-mail

From [redacted] **Cc** Ailsa Irvine; Andy O'Neill; Andy O'Neill; [redacted]

To Bob Posner; Niki Nixon **Bcc**

Subject RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Thanks Bob, and everyone – I have now responded briefly to the party. Have a good weekend one and all!

[redacted]

From: Bob Posner
Sent: 15 January 2021 17:59
To: Niki Nixon ; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] **; Louise Edwards ; Ailsa Irvine ; Partyreg ; Andy O'Neill ;** [redacted]
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Thanks [redacted] **and Niki,**
[redacted] **– your proposed quick now response is good by me and will put us in a sound handling position. I am mindful it is now late on a Friday, so do start your weekend soon.**
Niki – the line looks good.
Bob

Bob Posner
Chief Executive
The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE
This message is confidential and intended only for the person to whom it is addressed. It may contain privileged and confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient you must not read, copy, distribute, discuss or take any action in reliance upon it. If you have received this information in error, please destroy it and inform me as soon as possible. Thank you.

From: Niki Nixon [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Sent: 15 January 2021 17:46
To: [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Bob Posner** [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Partyreg** [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Andy O'Neill** [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>;** [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Cc: [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Louise Edwards** [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Ailsa Irvine** [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

We have the following line for use over the weekend.

[redacted]

Applications to register a political party are subject to detailed assessment against statutory requirements. We refused the application from All For Unity on the basis that the proposed constitution was not compliant with the provisions set out in electoral law. The applicants can re-apply and we will provide advice on the development of a compliant constitution.

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 15 January 2021 17:44
To: Bob Posner [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Andy O'Neill [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Niki Nixon [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Louise Edwards [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Ailsa Irvine [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Hi Bob,

From what you can see, whilst we can't register the party at present, there isn't that much the party needs to do to get over the line. I think exactly what we can do next will need to be discussed with Andy next week, but I suggest that our team issue a brief response.

That would be along the lines of: providing that the party make amends to its constitution along the lines suggested, and does so promptly, the sooner the party can be registered (and we can discuss in more detail next week).

Let us know if that works – we can either respond quickly now, or more fully early next week.

Thanks

[redacted]

From: Bob Posner
Sent: 15 January 2021 16:19
To: Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Andy O'Neill [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Niki Nixon [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Louise Edwards [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Ailsa Irvine [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

[redacted], can you kindly acknowledge receipt of the email to me (and the one to Ailsa too).

Party Registration / Andy,

> They seem to be saying we did not give the party the opportunity to amend their constitution or make representation to us on this one point, upon which I think refusal rested and otherwise the application would have been approved?
>
> In any event, they have raised a 'back of the queue' question and good if we can respond promptly and have a position for media enquiry over the weekend.

Thanks

Bob

Bob Posner
Chief Executive

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk
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From: Jamie Blackett [redacted]
Sent: 15 January 2021 16:05
To: Bob Posner [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Dear Bob,
As party leader of All For Unity may I just plead with you to see if your officials could expedite our application?
As you may know the Scottish elections are only three and a half months away and this delay does put us at a serious disadvantage. We are handicapped in our ability to raise funds and also sections of the media will not engage with us until we are registered.
It seems harsh that a technical detail in our constitution, which had been passed previously, should now hold us up. We are very happy to change it and the whole thing could be resolved in less than an hour.
In grateful anticipation
Yours sincerely
Jamie Blackett
Leader A4U

From: James Giles [redacted]
Sent: 15 January 2021 15:48
To [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk
Cc: Jamie Blackett [redacted]
[redacted] **CCM:0488863**

Dear Ailsa,
I hope you are well and don't mind me contacting you. We feel as if we have been hitting our heads against a brick wall with the Commission for some time now - the latest correspondence is below. If you could look into the matter I would be much obliged.
Regards,
James Giles

Image removed by sender.

James Giles
Organiser
Alliance 4 Unity
[redacted]
a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: James Giles [redacted]
Date: Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 3:47 PM
Subject: Re: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863
To: Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: Jamie Blackett [redacted], [redacted]
[redacted] Marjorie Torrance [redacted]

Dear [redacted]
Thank you for your email and a Happy New Year to you.
I would ask you to please look at the existing constitution of the [redacted], section 4f, which contains exactly the same clause and was approved as compliant with PPERA in 2017. Can I please ask why this is deemed non-compliant in the case of A4U, but compliant in the case of [redacted]
In addition, I would draw your attention to clause 5E of our proposed Constitution, which makes clear that the board has the power to 'deal with *all* matters affecting the group and its membership as it sees fit'. Clause 4F is in addition to clause 5E. Should it be the case that the Leader were not able to do so, the board clearly has the power as per clause 5E of our proposed constitution.
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We are quite prepared to change the clause, but we feel it deeply unfair to reject this application on these grounds and force us, in effect, to the back of the queue for potentially three months once again. This is now having a significant negative effect on our party, making fundraising harder and - crucially - the hostile media are using this and creating negative publicity against us.
For ease of reference, I attach the constitution of the [redacted], which contains the same procedure as the one you have just rejected.
I await your speedy reply.
Kind regards,
James Giles
--

Image removed by sender

James Giles

Organiser
All 4 Unity

[redacted]

[redacted]
a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD
[redacted]

[redacted]

Sender notified by
Mailtrack

On Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 1:27 PM Partyreg[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk> wrote:

Dear James Giles,

Refusal of your application to register All For Unity

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[redacted]

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As set out above, in our considerations of the party constitution, we could not be satisfied that in all circumstances, the party would be able to fulfil its legal obligation to notify the Commission of changes to the registered Leader within the 14 day timeframe.
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Since the party has not adopted a scheme as defined by PPERA, we refused the party's application.

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	All 4 Unity	Minded-to approve.
Emblem	image004.gif	Minded-to approve.

Next Steps

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Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

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Image removed
by sender.

Sender notified by
Mailtrack

Image removed
by sender.

Regarding [redacted]

Owner [redacted]

Keywords

Duration **Priority** Normal

Due

Category **Sub-Category**

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category **PEF Category**

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
0488863.msg	90,114
image001.jpg	465
image002.jpg	345
image003.jpg	345
image004.gif	1,956
image005.jpg	825

1 - 6 of 6 (0 selected) Page 1

E-mail

RE: All For Unity - A...

Sent Date 15/01/2021 19:21

E-mail

From James William Beauchamp Blackett **Cc**

To James Giles; [redacted] **Bcc**

[redacted]

Subject RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Dear [redacted]
Thank you very much for coming back so quickly. We completely understand that you need to be rigorous and respect that.
We will make this minor change on Monday in the hope that we can complete the registration process early next week.
Kind regards
Jamie Blackett

From: Partyreg [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk]**
Sent: 15 January 2021 18:31
To: [redacted] **;** [redacted]
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863
Dear Jamie and James,
I am responding to your messages on behalf of Bob Posner and Ailsa Irvine. [redacted]
Whilst the news today will no doubt be disappointing, you will appreciate that we cannot register parties where we are not satisfied that the application satisfies the statutory requirements under PPERA.
You will also see, though, that whilst we cannot approve the constitution at present, there are not many issues that need to be addressed. The sooner, therefore, that you address the issues identified, the sooner your party is likely to be registered. We would be able to discuss the required changes in more detail next week should that be helpful to you.
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electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

From: Jamie Blackett [redacted]
Sent: 15 January 2021 16:05
To: Bob Posner [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863
Dear Bob,
As party leader of All For Unity may I just plead with you to see if your officials could expedite our application?
As you may know the Scottish elections are only three and a half months away and this delay does put us at a serious disadvantage. We are handicapped in our ability to raise funds and also sections of the media will not engage with us until we are registered.
It seems harsh that a technical detail in our constitution, which had been passed previously, should now hold us up. We are very happy to change it and the whole thing could be resolved in less than an hour.
In grateful anticipation
Yours sincerely
Jamie Blackett
Leader A4U
From: James Giles [redacted]
Sent: 15 January 2021 15:48
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk
Cc: Jamie Blackett [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863
Dear Ailsa,
I hope you are well and don't mind me contacting you. We feel as if we have been hitting our heads against a brick wall with the Commission for some time now - the latest correspondence is below. If you could look into the matter I would be much obliged.
Regards,
James Giles

James Giles

James Giles

Organiser
Alliance 4 Unity
[redacted]
a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD
[redacted]

[redacted]

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: James Giles [redacted]
Date: Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 3:47 PM
Subject: Re: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863
To: Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: Jamie Blackett [redacted], [redacted], **Marjorie Torrance** [redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email and a Happy New Year to you.
I would ask you to please look at the existing constitution of the [redacted], section 4f, which contains exactly the same clause and was approved as compliant with PPERA in 2017. Can I please ask why this is deemed non-compliant in the case of A4U, but compliant in the case of [redacted]
In addition, I would draw your attention to clause 5E of our proposed Constitution, which makes clear that the board has the power to 'deal with *all* matters affecting the group and its membership as it sees fit'. Clause 4F is in addition to clause 5E. Should it be the case that the Leader were not able to do so, the board clearly has the power as per clause 5E of our proposed constitution.
Can I please ask you to re-examine our constitution in light of this, and confirm if your rejection stands?
Finally, I would like to express our disappointment that this section and clause, which was also included in our first application, was not brought to our attention as non-compliant the first time you considered our application.
We are quite prepared to change the clause, but we feel it deeply unfair to reject this application on these grounds and force us, in effect, to the back of the queue for potentially three months once again. This is now having a significant negative effect on our party, making fundraising harder and - crucially - the hostile media are using this and creating negative publicity against us.
For ease of reference, I attach the constitution of the [redacted] which contains the same procedure as the one you have just rejected.
I await your speedy reply.
Kind regards,
James Giles
--

James Giles

James Giles
Organiser
All 4 Unity
[redacted]
a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD
[redacted]

[redacted]

Sender notified by
Mailtrack

On Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 1:27 PM Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk> wrote:

> **Dear James Giles,**
> **Refusal of your application to register All For Unity**
> **I write to inform you that we have refused your application to register All For Unity. The reason for our decision is outlined in this message. You will also find information about making a fresh application to register if you wish to do so.**
> **Proposed constitution**
> **By law, when a party applies to be registered it must give us a copy of its constitution. Section 26(9) of the Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA)**

defines a constitution as "the document or documents (of whatever name) by which the structure and organisation of the party is determined." A constitution must accurately determine the party's structure and organisation. The constitution must also be compliant with the provision in PPERA, and must be consistent with the party's financial scheme.

Section 31(4)(a) of PPERA sets out that a registered party must notify the Commission of changes to named officers for the party (caused by the death or termination of the appointment of a registered officer of the party) within 14 days.

Provisions 4a – 4f of the party constitution set out the procedures for officer changes, namely that officers are elected at the party's Annual General Meeting.

Provision 4f states that 'if an Officer position becomes vacant, for any reason, the Leader has the power to appoint a successor until the next Annual General Meeting'. However, if the role of Leader were to become vacant for such a reason that the Leader would be unable to appoint their own successor, the party would be unable to replace this officer within the required timeframe of 14 days, unless the position became vacant shortly before the party's AGM.

For the reasons above, we decided that the constitution is not consistent with the party's financial scheme or PPERA, which require notification of officer changes within the legally obligated timeframe. We concluded that your constitution is not complaint with PPERA, and therefore the documents you supplied are not a constitution as defined by PPERA.

On this basis, the proposed constitution was refused.

Proposed financial scheme

Pursuant to section 26(1) of the Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act (PPERA) a party may not be registered unless it has adopted a scheme which "sets out the arrangements for regulating the financial affairs of the party for the purposes of [PPERA]." By law, therefore, applicants must give us a financial scheme that is accurate and consistent with the party's constitution, and must have adopted its scheme.

Provision 1.19 of the party's financial scheme states that the party must notify the Commission of any changes to registered officers within 14 days of the change.

As set out above, in our considerations of the party constitution, we could not be satisfied that in all circumstances, the party would be able to fulfil its legal obligation to notify the Commission of changes to the registered Leader within the 14 day timeframe.

On this basis, we could not be satisfied that the constitution and financial scheme are consistent, and that the party has adopted its scheme.

Since the party has not adopted a scheme as defined by PPERA, we refused the party's application.

Other proposed identity marks

Because your application did not comply with the requirements of PPERA, your party's remaining identity mark(s) did not fall for consideration and so a formal decision has not been made on these.

However, for your assistance, our minded-to view would have been as follows.

	Identity mark	Minded-to decision and reason if relevant
Name	All For Unity	Minded to approve.
Descriptions	All for Unity - No to Separatism	Minded to approve.
	All 4 Unity - No to Separatism	Minded to approve.
		Minded to refuse.

	All for Unity (George Galloway)	**Our view is that the description i likely to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote. Parties can also use descriptions regional list ballot papers for Scottish Parliamentary elections. In our opinion, the inclusion of George Galloway's name in the description would be likely to result in electors being misled as the effect of their vote if he were stand as a candidate in the electic and the proposed description wei used for a region(s) where he was not standing.**
	All 4 Unity (George Galloway)	**Minded to refuse. Our view is that the description i likely to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote. Parties can also use descriptions regional list ballot papers for Scottish Parliamentary elections. In our opinion, the inclusion of George Galloway's name in the description would be likely to result in electors being misled as the effect of their vote if he were stand as a candidate in the electic and the proposed description wei used for a region(s) where he was not standing.**
	All 4 Unity	**Minded-to approve.**
Emblem	image001.gif	**Minded-to approve.**

Next Steps

It is open to your party to submit a fresh application. As with all applications we will consider whether it meets the statutory requirements in PPERA.

Where we have refused two applications from your party, you must now make a further £150 payment.

Please be aware that we assess applications on a case by case basis against the statutory tests, taking into account relevant information and circumstances at the relevant time. We cannot guarantee presently any decisions, or initial views provided, on an application submitted in the future.

Whilst this message will no doubt be disappointing to you, I trust you will understand that we are obliged to maintain the register consistent with the statutory requirements.

Please contact us if you have any questions about any of the information in this message.

Applying ahead of the 2021 May Polls

If you would like to:

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amend a name for an existing party;
amend or add an emblem; or
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to be included on ballot papers for the elections taking place on 6 May 2021, please ensure that your application is with us by Sunday 31 January 2021.
We cannot guarantee that we will make a decision in time on applications submitted after this date for use on ballots papers at the elections.
Where a party has submitted an application containing all of the information required by law, we aim to reach a decision within 6 weeks of submission. However, it may take longer than this if the application is complex. We therefore advise that parties wishing to contest the May 2021 elections to submit their applications as soon as possible.
In order to contest each type of election, new parties must be registered with us by a certain date. You can find out more information about when these dates are on our website.
Yours sincerely,
[redacted]
The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

Sender notified by Mailtrack

Regarding	[redacted]
Owner	[redacted]
Keywords	
Duration	**Priority** Normal
Due	
Category	**Sub-Category**

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category	**PEF Category**

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
image001.gif	1,956

1 - 1 of 1 (0 selected) Page 1

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 15 January 2021 17:39
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Dear Mr Blackett and Mr Giles

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your respective emails to Bob Posner and Ailsa Irvine. The points you raise are being considered.

With best wishes
[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Jamie Blackett [redacted]
Sent: 15 January 2021 16:05
To: Bob Posner [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Dear Bob,

As party leader of All For Unity may I just plead with you to see if your officials could expedite our application?

As you may know the Scottish elections are only three and a half months away and this delay does put us at a serious disadvantage. We are handicapped in our ability to raise funds and also sections of the media will not engage with us until we are registered.

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Leader A4U

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Regards,
James Giles

James Giles

James Giles

Organiser
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[redacted]
a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD
[redacted]

[redacted]

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From: **James Giles** [redacted]
Date: Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 3:47 PM
Subject: Re: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863
To: Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: Jamie Blackett [redacted], [redacted] Marjorie Torrance [redacted]

Dear [redacted]

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potentially three months once again. This is now having a significant negative effect on our party, making fundraising harder and - crucially - the hostile media are using this and creating negative publicity against us.

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I await your speedy reply.

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James Giles
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James Giles

James Giles

Organiser
All 4 Unity
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a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD
[redacted]

[redacted]

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On Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 1:27 PM Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk> wrote:

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> I write to inform you that we have refused your application to register All For Unity. The reason for our decision is outlined in this message. You will also find information about making a fresh application to register if you wish to do so.
>
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	All 4 Unity - No to Separatism	Minded to approve.
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	All 4 Unity	Minded-to approve.
Emblem		Minded-to approve.

Next Steps

It is open to your party to submit a fresh application. As with all applications we will consider whether it meets the statutory requirements in PPERA.

Where we have refused two applications from your party, you must now make a further £150 payment.

Please be aware that we assess applications on a case by case basis against the statutory tests, taking into account relevant information and circumstances at the relevant time. We cannot guarantee presently any decisions, or initial views provided, on an application submitted in the future.

Whilst this message will no doubt be disappointing to you, I trust you will understand that we are obliged to maintain the register consistent with the statutory requirements.

Please contact us if you have any questions about any of the information in this message.

Applying ahead of the 2021 May Polls

If you would like to:

- register a new political party;
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- amend or add an emblem; or
- add a description

to be included on ballot papers for the elections taking place on 6 May 2021, please ensure that your application is with us by **Sunday 31 January 2021.**

We cannot guarantee that we will make a decision in time on applications submitted after this date for use on ballots papers at the elections.

Where a party has submitted an application containing all of the information required by law, we aim to reach a decision within 6 weeks of submission. However, it may take longer than this if the application is complex. We therefore advise that parties wishing to contest the May 2021 elections to submit their applications as soon as possible.

In order to contest each type of election, new parties must be registered with us by a certain date. You can find out more information about when these dates are on our website.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission

electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 15 January 2021 14:05
To: Bob Posner
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Hi Bob,

Indeed, and that's what we'll advise the party to so if they wish to submit a fresh application.

Discussions with the party in the lead up to the below application being submitted focused primarily on the party name, as we had rejected their previous proposed name, Alliance for Unity. It seems that the party ensuring their constitution was compliant might have had slightly less attention paid to it.

No doubt the party won't be best pleased about having to pay a further fee, but as you say, the changes they would need to make are straightforward.

Please do let me know if you have any other questions, otherwise have a great weekend!

Thanks,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Bob Posner
Sent: 15 January 2021 13:49
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Thanks [redacted].

Presumably the party could have made straightforward amends to their constitution and financial scheme to overcome the reason for refusal; and could do that now and make a fresh application?

Bob

Bob Posner
Chief Executive

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE
This message is confidential and intended only for the person to whom it is addressed. It may contain privileged and confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient you must not read, copy,

distribute, discuss or take any action in reliance upon it. If you have received this information in error, please destroy it and inform me as soon as possible. Thank you.

From: [redacted] [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 15 January 2021 13:30
To: Bob Posner [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Louise Edwards [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Craig Westwood [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Niki Nixon [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Andy O'Neill [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Rhydian Thomas [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Registration team [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: FW: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Hi all,

Please see below for info the decision letter just sent to All For Unity.

If you have any questions about this, please let me know.

Thanks

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Partyreg
Sent: 15 January 2021 13:28
To: 'James Giles' [redacted]
Subject: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Dear James Giles,

Refusal of your application to register All For Unity
I write to inform you that we have refused your application to register All For Unity. The reason for our decision is outlined in this message. You will also find information about making a fresh application to register if you wish to do so.

Proposed constitution
By law, when a party applies to be registered it must give us a copy of its constitution. Section 26(9) of the Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) defines a constitution as "the document or documents (of whatever name) by which the structure and organisation of the party is determined." A constitution must accurately determine the party's structure and organisation. The constitution must also be compliant with the provision in PPERA, and must be consistent with the party's financial scheme.

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		Parties can also use descriptions on regional list ballot papers for Scottish Parliamentary elections. In our opinion, the inclusion of George Galloway's name in the description would be likely to result in electors being misled as to the effect of their vote if he were to stand as a candidate in the election, and the proposed description were used for a region(s) where he was not standing.
	All 4 Unity (George Galloway)	Minded to refuse. Our view is that the description is likely to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote. Parties can also use descriptions on regional list ballot papers for Scottish Parliamentary elections. In our opinion, the inclusion of George Galloway's name in the description would be likely to result in electors being misled as to the effect of their vote if he were to stand as a candidate in the election, and the proposed description were used for a region(s) where he was not standing.
	All 4 Unity	Minded-to approve.
Emblem		Minded-to approve.

Next Steps

It is open to your party to submit a fresh application. As with all applications we will consider whether it meets the statutory requirements in PPERA.

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Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 15 January 2021 17:02
To: Niki Nixon; [redacted]
Cc: Partyreg
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Yep – looks good to me.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

From: Niki Nixon
Sent: 15 January 2021 16:55
To: [redacted]
Cc: Partyreg
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

I've just the edits below. [redacted] is this correct?

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 15 January 2021 16:48
To: Niki Nixon [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Hi all,

On the basis of the below, I've drafted a reactive press comment in case needed over the weekend. Niki/party reg if you could let me know if you're happy with it, that would be great:

Applications to register a political party are subject to detailed assessment against statutory requirements. We refused ~~jected~~ the application from All For Unity on the basis that the proposed constitution was not compliant with the provisions set out in electoral law. The applicants can re-apply and we will provide advice on the development of a compliant constitution ~~will work with them to overcome registration difficulties~~.

Thanks
[redacted]

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

Press office: 020 7271 0704
Press out of hours: 07789 920414

From: Niki Nixon [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 15 January 2021 16:32
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: FW: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

FYI, for the weekend, do you have everything you need for party reg enquiries this weekend?

From: Bob Posner [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 15 January 2021 16:19
To: Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Andy O'Neill [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Niki Nixon [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Louise Edwards [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Ailsa Irvine [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

[redacted], can you kindly acknowledge receipt of the email to me (and the one to Ailsa too).

Party Registration / Andy,

> They seem to be saying we did not give the party the opportunity to amend their constitution or make representation to us on this one point, upon which I think refusal rested and otherwise the application would have been approved?
>
> In any event, they have raised a 'back of the queue' question and good if we can respond promptly and have a position for media enquiry over the weekend.

Thanks

Bob

Bob Posner
Chief Executive

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE
This message is confidential and intended only for the person to whom it is addressed. It may contain privileged and confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient you must not read, copy, distribute, discuss or take any action in reliance upon it. If you have received this information in error, please destroy it and inform me as soon as possible. Thank you.

From: Jamie Blackett [redacted]
Sent: 15 January 2021 16:05
To: Bob Posner [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Dear Bob,

As party leader of All For Unity may I just plead with you to see if your officials could expedite our application?

As you may know the Scottish elections are only three and a half months away and this delay does put us at a serious disadvantage. We are handicapped in our ability to raise funds and also sections of the media will not engage with us until we are registered.

It seems harsh that a technical detail in our constitution, which had been passed previously, should now hold us up. We are very happy to change it and the whole thing could be resolved in less than an hour.

In grateful anticipation

Yours sincerely

Jamie Blackett
Leader A4U

From: James Giles
Sent: 15 January 2021 15:48
To: @electoralcommission.org.uk
Cc: Jamie Blackett
Subject: Fwd: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Dear Ailsa,

I hope you are well and don't mind me contacting you. We feel as if we have been hitting our heads against a brick wall with the Commission for some time now - the latest correspondence is below. If you could look into the matter I would be much obliged.

Regards,
James Giles

Dear

Thank you for your email and a Happy New Year to you.

I would ask you to please look at the existing constitution of the , section 4f, which contains exactly the same clause and was approved as compliant with PPERA in 2017. Can I please ask why this is deemed non-compliant in the case of A4U, but compliant in the case of

In addition, I would draw your attention to clause 5E of our proposed Constitution, which makes clear that the board has the power to 'deal with *all* matters affecting the group and its membership as it sees fit'. Clause 4F is in addition to clause 5E. Should it be the case that the Leader were not able to do so, the board clearly has the power as per clause 5E of our proposed constitution.

Can I please ask you to re-examine our constitution in light of this, and confirm if your rejection stands?

Finally, I would like to express our disappointment that this section and clause, which was also included in our first application, was not brought to our attention as non-compliant the first time you considered our application.

We are quite prepared to change the clause, but we feel it deeply unfair to reject this application on these grounds and force us, in effect, to the back of the queue for potentially three months once again. This is now having a significant negative effect on our party, making fundraising harder and - crucially - the hostile media are using this and creating negative publicity against us.

For ease of reference, I attach the constitution of the , which contains the same procedure as the one you have just rejected.

I await your speedy reply.

Kind regards,
James Giles
--

On Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 1:27 PM Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk> wrote:

Dear James Giles,

Refusal of your application to register All For Unity

I write to inform you that we have refused your application to register All For Unity. The reason for our decision is outlined in this message. You will also find information about making a fresh application to register if you wish to do so.

Proposed constitution

By law, when a party applies to be registered it must give us a copy of its constitution. Section 26(9) of the Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) defines a constitution as "the document or documents (of whatever name) by which the structure and organisation of the party is determined." A constitution must accurately determine the party's structure and organisation. The constitution must also be compliant with the provision in PPERA, and must be consistent with the party's financial scheme.

Section 31(4)(a) of PPERA sets out that a registered party must notify the Commission of changes to named officers for the party (caused by the death or termination of the appointment of a registered officer of the party) within 14 days.

Provisions 4a – 4f of the party constitution set out the procedures for officer changes, namely that officers are elected at the party's Annual General Meeting.

Provision 4f states that 'if an Officer position becomes vacant, for any reason, the Leader has the power to appoint a successor until the next Annual General Meeting'.

However, if the role of Leader were to become vacant for such a reason that the Leader would be unable to appoint their own successor, the party would be unable to replace this officer within the required timeframe of 14 days, unless the position became vacant shortly before the party's AGM.

For the reasons above, we decided that the constitution is not consistent with the party's financial scheme or PPERA, which require notification of officer changes within the legally obligated timeframe. We concluded that your constitution is not complaint with PPERA, and therefore the documents you supplied are not a constitution as defined by PPERA.

On this basis, the proposed constitution was refused.

Proposed financial scheme

Pursuant to section 26(1) of the Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act (PPERA) a party may not be registered unless it has adopted a scheme which "sets out the arrangements for regulating the financial affairs of the party for the purposes of [PPERA]." By law, therefore, applicants must give us a financial scheme that is accurate and consistent with the party's constitution, and must have adopted its scheme.

Provision 1.19 of the party's financial scheme states that the party must notify the Commission of any changes to registered officers within 14 days of the change.

As set out above, in our considerations of the party constitution, we could not be satisfied that in all circumstances, the party would be able to fulfil its legal obligation to notify the Commission of changes to the registered Leader within the 14 day timeframe.

On this basis, we could not be satisfied that the constitution and financial scheme are consistent, and that the party has adopted its scheme.

Since the party has not adopted a scheme as defined by PPERA, we refused the party's application.

Other proposed identity marks

Because your application did not comply with the requirements of PPERA, your party's remaining identity mark(s) did not fall for consideration and so a formal decision has not been made on these.

However, for your assistance, our minded-to view would have been as follows.

	Identity mark	**Minded-to decision and reason if relevant**
Name	All For Unity	Minded to approve.
Descriptions	All for Unity - No to Separatism	Minded to approve.

	All 4 Unity - No to Separatism	Minded to approve.
	All for Unity (George Galloway)	Minded to refuse. Our view is that the description is likely to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote. Parties can also use descriptions on regional list ballot papers for Scottish Parliamentary elections. In our opinion, the inclusion of George Galloway's name in the description would be likely to result in electors being misled as to the effect of their vote if he were to stand as a candidate in the election, and the proposed description were used for a region(s) where he was not standing.
	All 4 Unity (George Galloway)	Minded to refuse. Our view is that the description is likely to mislead an elector as to the effect of their vote. Parties can also use descriptions on regional list ballot papers for Scottish Parliamentary elections. In our opinion, the inclusion of George Galloway's name in the description would be likely to result in electors being misled as to the effect of their vote if he were to stand as a candidate in the election, and the proposed description were used for a region(s) where he was not standing.
	All 4 Unity	Minded-to approve.
Emblem		Minded-to approve.

Next Steps

It is open to your party to submit a fresh application. As with all applications we will consider whether it meets the statutory requirements in PPERA.

Where we have refused two applications from your party, you must now make a further £150 payment.

Please be aware that we assess applications on a case by case basis against the statutory tests, taking into account relevant information and circumstances at the relevant time. We cannot guarantee presently any decisions, or initial views provided, on an application submitted in the future.

Whilst this message will no doubt be disappointing to you, I trust you will understand that we are obliged to maintain the register consistent with the statutory requirements.

Please contact us if you have any questions about any of the information in this message.

Applying ahead of the 2021 May Polls

If you would like to:

- register a new political party;
- amend a name for an existing party;
- amend or add an emblem; or
- add a description

to be included on ballot papers for the elections taking place on 6 May 2021, please ensure that your application is with us by **Sunday 31 January 2021.**

We cannot guarantee that we will make a decision in time on applications submitted after this date for use on ballots papers at the elections.

Where a party has submitted an application containing all of the information required by law, we aim to reach a decision within 6 weeks of submission. However, it may take longer than this if the

application is complex. We therefore advise that parties wishing to contest the May 2021 elections to submit their applications as soon as possible.

In order to contest each type of election, new parties must be registered with us by a certain date. You can find out more information about when these dates are on our website.

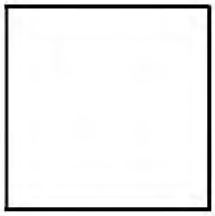
Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

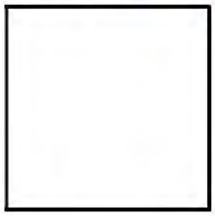
The Electoral Commission

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Mailtrack



E-mail

All For Unity - Next...

Sent Date 18/01/2021 16:13

E-mail

From [redacted] **Cc** [redacted] [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk

To Andy O'Neill; Andy O'Neill **Bcc**

Subject All For Unity - Next steps

Hi Andy,

Hope you had a good weekend. Copying in press so that they're kept up to speed with developments.

Following the email that he sent to the party on Friday (which they have acknowledged receipt of), [redacted] discussed with me how best to handle the All For Unity application going forward.

We are proposing that we write to the party and suggest the following course of action:

1. **The party make amendments to the constitution in line with the comments in our decision letter.**
2. **The party ensure that they review the constitution and financial scheme as a whole before resubmitting the application.**
3. **If the only changes that the party make upon resubmitting are minor amendments to the constitution, we would effectively treat the new application as a standalone constitution and financial scheme assessment, rather than completing a new, full assessment of an application to register a party.**

If this course of action is taken, we can waive the requirement for a party to now pay a further £150 fee, on a similar basis as not requiring a fee if a registered party applies to make amendments to their constitution and financial scheme.

In addition, a constitution and financial scheme assessment alone does not require a full approval board process, and a final decision could be taken by you as decision maker immediately. If the decision was to approve the documents, we could then approve the application to register as a whole.

If you let me know what your thoughts are on this, I will start drafting up a full response to the party.

Please drop me a line if you have any questions, happy to discuss over the phone/GTM if that would be easier.

Thanks,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

On Fri, 15 Jan 2021 at 18:30, Partyreg [redacted] **@electoralcommission.org.uk> wrote:**

> **Dear Jamie and James,**
>
> **I am responding to your messages on behalf of Bob Posner and Ailsa Irvine.** [redacted]
>
> **Whilst the news today will no doubt be disappointing, you will appreciate that we cannot register parties where we are not satisfied that the application satisfies the statutory requirements under PPERA.**
>
> **You will also see, though, that whilst we cannot approve the constitution at present, there are not many issues that need to be addressed. The sooner, therefore, that you address the issues identified, the sooner your party is likely to be registered. We would be able to discuss the required changes in more detail next week should that be helpful to you.**
>
> **Finally, with regards to constitutions submitted by others parties, we should point out that we have increased the scrutiny with which we assess registration applications and examine constitutions since 2017. We continue to be a robust regulator of political finance and registrar of political parties. Increasing scrutiny in this way ensures that voters can be confident that parties are capable of operating efficiently as the law requires. You should also be aware that we plan, in due course, to review the constitutions and financial schemes submitted by all currently registered parties to ensure that their documents continue to meet the expected standard.**
>
> **Yours sincerely,**
>
> [redacted]
>
> **The Electoral Commission**
> electoralcommission.org.uk

[redacted]

From: Jamie Blackett [redacted]
Sent: 15 January 2021 16:05
To: Bob Posner [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Dear Bob,

As party leader of All For Unity may I just plead with you to see if your officials could expedite our application?

As you may know the Scottish elections are only three and a half months away and this delay does put us at a serious disadvantage. We are handicapped in our ability to raise funds and also sections of the media will not engage with us until we are registered.

It seems harsh that a technical detail in our constitution, which had been passed previously, should now hold us up. We are very happy to change it and the whole thing could be resolved in less than an hour.

In grateful anticipation

Yours sincerely

Jamie Blackett
Leader A4U

From: James Giles [redacted]
Sent: 15 January 2021 15:48
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk
Cc: Jamie Blackett [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863

Dear Ailsa,

I hope you are well and don't mind me contacting you. We feel as if we have been hitting our heads against a brick wall with the Commission for some time now - the latest correspondence is below. If you could look into the matter I would be much obliged.

Regards,
James Giles

James Giles

James Giles
Organiser
Alliance 4 Unity
[redacted]
a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: James Giles [redacted]
Date: Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 3:47 PM
Subject: Re: All For Unity - Application decision CCM:0488863
To: Partyreg [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: Jamie Blackett [redacted], [redacted], Marjorie Torrance [redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email and a Happy New Year to you.

I would ask you to please look at the existing constitution of the [redacted]**, section 4f, which contains exactly the same clause and was approved as compliant with PPERA in 2017. Can I please ask why this is deemed non-compliant in the case of A4U, but compliant in the case of** [redacted]

In addition, I would draw your attention to clause 5E of our proposed Constitution, which makes clear that the board has the power to 'deal with *all* matters affecting the group and its membership as it sees fit'. Clause 4F is in addition to clause 5E. Should it be the case that the Leader were not able to do so, the board clearly has the power as per clause 5E of our proposed constitution.

Can I please ask you to re-examine our constitution in light of this, and confirm if your rejection stands?

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For ease of reference, I attach the constitution of the [redacted]**, which contains the same procedure as the one you have just rejected.**

I await your speedy reply.

[redacted]

Kind regards,
James Giles
--

James Giles

James Giles
Organiser
All 4 Unity
[redacted]
a: Suite 2, Fullarton House, 4 Fullarton Street, Ayr, KA7 1UD
[redacted]

[redacted]

Sender notified by
Mailtrack

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Refusal of your application to register All For Unity
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Provisions 4a – 4f of the party constitution set out the procedures for officer changes, namely that officers are elected at the party's Annual General Meeting.

[redacted]

Provision 4f states that 'if an Officer position becomes vacant, for any reason, the Leader has the power to appoint a successor until the next Annual General Meeting'.

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However, for your assistance, our minded-to view would have been as follows.

	Identity mark	Minded-to decision and reason if relevant

Name	**All For Unity**	**Minded to approve.**
Descriptions	**All for Unity - No to Separatism**	**Minded to approve.**
	All 4 Unity - No to Separatism	**Minded to approve.**
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	All 4 Unity	**Minded-to approve.**
Emblem	cid:17707a c5e711bff9 2041	**Minded-to approve.**

Next Steps

It is open to your party to submit a fresh application. As with all applications we will consider whether it meets the statutory requirements in PPERA.

Where we have refused two applications from your party, you must now make a further £150 payment.

Please be aware that we assess applications on a case by case basis against the statutory tests, taking into account relevant information and circumstances at the relevant time. We cannot guarantee presently any decisions, or initial views provided, on an application submitted in the future.

Whilst this message will no doubt be disappointing to you, I trust you will understand that we are obliged to maintain the register consistent with the statutory requirements.

Please contact us if you have any questions about any of the information in this message.

Applying ahead of the 2021 May Polls

If you would like to:
register a new political party;
amend a name for an existing party;
amend or add an emblem; or
add a description
to be included on ballot papers for the elections taking place on 6 May 2021, please ensure that your application is with us by Sunday 31 January 2021.

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Where a party has submitted an application containing all of the information required by law, we aim to reach a decision within 6 weeks of submission. However, it may take longer than this if the application is complex. We therefore advise that parties wishing to contest the May 2021 elections to submit their applications as soon as possible.

In order to contest each type of election, new parties must be registered with us by a certain date. You can find out more information about when these dates are on our website.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission

[redacted]

electoralcommission.org.uk

Sender notified by Mailtrack

--

James Giles [redacted]

James Giles

[redacted]

Regarding [redacted]

Owner [redacted]

Keywords

Duration **Priority** Normal

Due

Category **Sub-Category**

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category **PEF Category**

Attachments

E-Mail Attachments **Activity Attachment Associated View**

File Name	File Size (Bytes)
image001.gif	1,956

1 - 1 of 1 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason Received

[redacted]