

Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England and Wales in May 2021: Non-party campaigners

This factsheet is for non-party campaigners who are campaigning at the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections in England and Wales in May 2021.

Under the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections Order 2012, non-party campaigners must follow rules about how much they can spend on campaign activities in the run up to the elections.

This document explains how the rules apply.

What are non-party campaigners?

Non-party campaigners are individuals or organisations that campaign in the run-up to elections, but are not standing as political parties or candidates.

Non-party campaigners have to follow certain rules in the run-up to elections.

This document explains which rules apply for the PCC elections in England and Wales in May 2021 and the relevant spending limits.

For more information about non-party campaigners and guidance on campaigning at other elections, please see our [guidance page for non-party campaigners](#).

Types of non-party campaigns

There are two types of non-party campaigns.

These are:

- **Local campaigns** – non-party campaigns for or against one or more candidates in a particular police area
- **General campaigns** - non-party campaigns for or against a political party, or particular categories of candidates, including campaigns on policies or issues closely associated with a particular party or category of candidates (for

example, candidates in a certain age group).

You can find more information about the different types of campaign at [Non-party campaigners: Where to start](#).

Local campaigning at Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May 2021

Non-party campaigners at PCC elections in England and Wales that are campaigning for or against candidates standing in a particular ward or police area are covered by the local campaign rules.

The Electoral Commission does **not** regulate local campaigning. Complaints about breaches of the rules that apply to local campaigns should be made to the police.

Under the local campaign rules, there are limits on how much you can spend on campaigning for or against particular candidates in a ward or police area.

These spending limits cover spending on most campaign activities, including leaflets, meetings and digital campaigning.

The regulated period

We call the time when the spending limits and rules apply the regulated period.

In PCC elections the regulated period starts on the day after the person you are campaigning for or against becomes a candidate and ends on polling day, 6 May 2021.

The earliest date for someone to become a candidate in these elections is Monday 29 March 2021. You can find more information about when a person becomes a candidate on our [guidance page for candidates and agents](#).

Spending return

If you are authorised by a candidate's agent to incur spending above your spending limit (see table below) in a police area, you will be required to submit a spending return for those expenses. The return must be completed within 21 days of the election result being declared.

The return must be accompanied by a declaration verifying the return and a copy of the authority you received from the election agent.

The spending return and the declaration form are available under the resources for part 3 on our website [guidance page for candidates and agents](#).

Imprints

Whenever printed election material is published, it must contain certain details (which we refer to as an 'imprint') to show who is responsible for the material. This helps to ensure there is transparency about who is campaigning.

Please see our [imprint factsheet for non-party campaigners](#) for guidance on using imprints on election material.

Spending limits

During a regulated period, non-party campaigners are subject to limits on their spending on campaign activity.

Each police area has its own spending limit, ranging from £2,024 in Cumbria to £10,080 in the West Midlands. All of these limits can be found in the table across. You should keep a record of your spending, to make sure that you do not exceed the spending limit.

Any spending over these limits must be authorised by the agent of the relevant candidate. It will therefore count as candidate spending and go towards the candidate's spending limit.

Police area	Spending limit
Avon & Somerset	£6,278
Bedfordshire	£2,347
Cambridgeshire	£3,055
Cheshire	£4,015
Cleveland	£2,155
Cumbria	£2,024
Derbyshire	£3,993
Devon and Cornwall	£6,573
Dorset	£3,003
Durham	£2,499
Dyfed-Powys	£2,035
Essex	£6,605
Gloucestershire	£2,422
Gwent	£2,199
Hampshire	£7,345
Hertfordshire	£4,260
Humberside	£3,557
Kent	£6,433
Lancashire	£5,682
Leicestershire	£3,952
Lincolnshire	£2,805
Merseyside	£5,139
Norfolk	£3,392
North Wales	£2,674
North Yorkshire	£3,142
Northamptonshire	£2,686
Northumbria	£5,507
Nottinghamshire	£4,116
South Wales	£4,904
South Yorkshire	£5,030
Staffordshire	£4,314
Suffolk	£2,828
Surrey	£4,345
Sussex	£6,197
Thames Valley	£8,551
Warwickshire	£2,144
West Mercia	£4,750
West Midlands	£10,080
West Yorkshire	£8,098
Wiltshire	£2,630

Where you can find more information

You can find more information in the [guidance for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections](#). Part three covers the spending, donations and reporting rules for candidates and agents.

Or you can visit us at:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

If it's easier, you can also email us or call us using our phone numbers below. We are here to help, so please get in touch.

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