[redacted]

From: FOI
Sent: 26 April 2021 14:35
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 039-21 - Response
Attachments: FOI 039-21 - Information to release_Redacted 26.04.2021.pdf

Dear [redacted],

Our Ref: FOI-039-21

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 25 March 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 am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information I am requesting is, since 2019;
1. Any applications to the Electoral Commission by "Patriotic Alternative"
2. The response by the Electoral commission in reference to Patriotic Alternative's application.

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

Please find attached the application documents submitted by the party, and our decisions on each of those applications, for applications submitted on 18 October 2019, 28 February 2020, 02 October 2020 and 10 February 2021. We have not yet taken a decision on the application submitted this year.

You will notice that in the attached pdf document, some of the information has been redacted. Information is exempt under section 40(2) of the FOIA if it constitutes the personal data of third parties (anyone other than the requester) where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the UK GDPR. Personal information belonging to individuals that is not already contained on our public register, or that belongs to junior members of Commission staff, satisfies these qualities and therefore we have not disclosed it to you.

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

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

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

Yours sincerely

Information Officer
FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

Application to register a political party in Great Britain

The Electoral Commission

This application was submitted electronically to the Electoral Commission on 18/10/2019 at 11:01:28.
PEF Online reference: 10260

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 Patriotic Alternative 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	Y	Scotland	Y	Wales	Y

I also declare that Patriotic Alternative intends to contest one or more elections to the European Parliament in the combined region of Gibraltar and the South West of England.

I declare that Patriotic Alternative has in place the appropriate mechanisms to comply with the regulations which govern the election and financial activities of political parties.

Parliamentary election status

Exempt from UK parliamentary elections: N

Signatures

Proposed registered party leader

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

Signed

Printed name [redacted]

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 [redacted] Date dd mm yyyy

For electoral commission use

Date of receipt dd mm yyyy Checked by

Party name

Primary name: Patriotic Alternative

Language: English

Secondary name

Language

English translation

Address (party headquarters or for correspondence if no HQ)

Address [redacted]

Town [redacted]

County [redacted]

Postcode [redacted]

Country [redacted]

Telephone number [redacted] Extn

Fax number

Email address [redacted]

Website address

Emblems

Emblem Id: 7387

Monochrome emblem



Emblem 1

Colour emblem



Emblem 2

Party officers

Party Leader

Title [redacted]

First name(s) [redacted]

Surname [redacted]

Home address [redacted]

Telephone number [redacted] Extn

Fax number

Email address [redacted]

If leader for a particular purpose, please specify

Treasurer

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

Nominating Officer

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

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
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

Tel: 020 7271 0616
Fax: 020 7271 0505
Email: pef@electoralcommission.org.uk
Website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Financial scheme

Patriotic Alternative

Introduction

1.1 This scheme sets out how Patriotic Alternative ('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 Patriotic Alternative'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 Patriotic Alternative does not wish to register any separate accounting units with the Commission.[1]

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 [redacted] the registered treasurer of Patriotic Alternative is responsible for the whole party's compliance with the requirements of the Act, including the following:

Annual accounts

1.7 The Patriotic Alternative 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

[1] Please refer to sections 2.13 and 2.14 in our brief guide *Registering a political party*.

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, [redacted] 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 Patriotic Alternative 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, [redacted] 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)[2]
- check the permissibility of any donations over £500 within 30 days of receipt[3]
- 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[4]

[2] More details can be found in our guidance documents by visiting our parties pages at: http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance/those-we-regulate/register-a-new-party
[3] See above.
[4] See above.

- 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, [redacted] 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, Patriotic Alternative 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 Patriotic Alternative 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 Patriotic Alternative 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 We 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 Patriotic Alternative 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, [redacted] will ensure that the registered leader and all other officers and members of Patriotic Alternative 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, [name of registered party treasurer], will ensure that any proposed amendments to this financial scheme are submitted to the Commission for approval.

Signed

Leader: [redacted] Date: 18.10.2019

Treasurer: [redacted] Date: 18.10.2019

Nominating officer: [redacted] Date: 18.10.2019

Campaigns officer (if applicable): _____ Date: _____

Other officer (if applicable): _____ Date: _____

Constitution

Introduction

Name

1.1 The Party shall be called the “Patriotic Alternative” (the “Party”)

Constitution

1.2 The Constitution of the Party sets out how the Party will regulate its activities so that its actions and policies reflect the will of the members of the Party and are in accordance with regulatory requirements and general standards of propriety and regularity.

1.3 The members of the Party must approve, by vote at the Annual General Meeting, the Constitution of the Party and any amendments thereto. The National Council may make interim amendments to the constitution; all such amendments must be subsequently approved at the next Annual General Meeting or lapse. Approval of amendments must be by at least a 50% majority of those voting.

Manifesto

1.4 The general principles, objectives and policies of the Party are contained in its manifesto. The National Council is responsible for developing the manifesto and it is for the Annual General Meeting to accept or reject that manifesto in its entirety.

Policy

1.5 The day-to-day adoption and amendment of Party policy shall be the responsibility of the National Chairman and the National Council. All such policy shall conform with and give expression to the general principles and objectives of the Party as set out in its manifesto.

Objectives and Methods

Objectives

2.1 The Party’s principal objectives shall be to provide a patriotic and democratic alternative for the people of Great Britain.

Methods

2.2 The Party shall pursue its aims by means of political activity, democratically organised by members of the Party freely associating together according to the provisions of the constitution.

Membership

3.1 Membership of the Party is open to all those, aged 16 years or over, who broadly agree with its aims, objectives, and policies.

3.2 Membership can be acquired by anyone, whatever their ethnicity, religion or culture, who:

a) has affirmed in writing his or her intention to join the Party;
b) is willing to further the aims of the Party;
c) is not a member of any political party or body that stands in opposition to the Party;
d) agree to abide by the Constitution of the party;
e) has been accepted into membership by the National Chairman and National Council;
f) has paid the annual membership fee in the amount and in the manner determined by the National Council.

3.3 The National Council of the party shall have the sole right to determine the annual subscription payable by members of the party, subject to the provision that any change on the subscription rate determined during any year shall not take effect until the 1st January of the following year.

3.4 All rights and privileges of membership of the party shall be withheld from any persons who allow their membership to fall into arrears.

3.5 The membership of the Party is divided into two parts:-

i) Probationary members
ii) Full members

All new members of the party shall remain probationary members for twelve months from the date of joining and can have their membership terminated by the party's National Chairman or by a member of the National Council authorised by the National Chairman to do so without recourse to the disciplinary procedure afforded to Full Members.

Full Members are members of the party who have served continuously as members of the party for twelve months or more and are currently not in arrears in relation to their membership dues.

3.6 The National Chairman or members of the National Council acting on his behalf shall have the right to expel from membership any Full Member who no longer complies with the requirements of paragraph 3.1 and 3.2 above, or whose behaviour is otherwise damaging to the interests of the party. Any full member so expelled shall have the right of appeal to the Appeals Panel.

3.7 Notwithstanding compliance with 3.1 and 3.2 above, membership may be refused or revoked if there is material disagreement, evidenced by conduct, with the fundamental values and objectives of the party or admission that continued membership would be likely to bring the party into disrepute.

3.8 Any person aggrieved by such a refusal or revocation shall, subject to having exhausted the internal procedures have a right of appeal to the Appeals Panel.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

4.1 The AGM shall be responsible for:

a) approving the Party's manifesto and constitution;
b) approving the Treasurer's Report;
c) addressing with other business put forward to the conference

4.2 All members, can attend the AGM.

- Full Members can vote on all issues
- Probationary Members can attend the conference but cannot vote until they become Full Members.

The National Chairman

5.1 The National Chairman of the Party in conjunction with the National Council is entrusted with deciding the political direction of the Party and the management of its day-to-day running.

5.2 The National Chairman always sits on the National Council.

5.3 The National Chairman has full executive authority over the day-today running of the Party.

5.4 The National Chairman is elected by a popular secret postal ballot that all Full Members are eligible to vote in.

5.5 Eligibility for Office of National Chairman

In order to qualify to be a candidate for the office of National Chairman a member must have more than THREE years' continuous membership. In effect, they have to have served their Probationary Membership and TWO full years as a Full Member in order to be qualified to stand. In addition, a candidate must have obtained at least 100 signatures from Full Members of the party. The incumbent National Chairman is not required to obtain any nomination signatures and he or she is automatically eligible for candidacy to the post of National Chairman.

This is waived during the first 35 months of the party's existence. The National Chairman through this period will be [redacted]

5.6 Election Process for the Office of National Chairman

Each year when the Office of National Chairman is up for renewal, all those who wish to stand for the Office of National Chairman must submit their intention to stand, the required signatures of 100 Full Members and their proof of Full Membership of the Party for the required period to the National Council by no later than the 1st of July of that year.

Any candidate wishing to stand for election to the Office of National Chairman must lodge a deposit to cover the cost of said election. This deposit is refundable if the candidate is successful. If more than one candidate successfully submits their intention to stand for the Office of National Chairman the costs of the deposit are split equally between those candidates and if one of those candidates is successful, that candidate alone is entitled to a refund of their part of the deposit.

This will trigger a vote to determine who will hold the Office of National Chairman.

The National Council will then appoint a Returning Officer to administer the leadership election.

All those who have successfully submitted their intention to stand and have met the criteria necessary will then be contacted immediately by the Returning Officer who will obtain from them a picture and a written statement. These candidates will then have their name, their picture and a statement amounting to no more than five hundred words published on the party website.

All written statements must be approved by the Returning Officer and must not contain libellous or defamatory statements about the other candidate(s).

All Full Members will then be mailed a ballot paper, instructions and a link to the relevant page of the party website by no later than the ten working days from the 1st of July. All full members will then have until the July 31st to respond via postal ballot. Any ballots received after the 31st fo July will be discarded.

All ballots will be stored unopened by the Party until the 1st of August when they will opened by the Returning Officer and the votes counted under his or her supervision with all candidates present – if a candidate cannot attend the opening and counting of the votes, he or she can send a delegate in his or her place.

As soon as the votes are counted, the candidate with the highest numbers of votes is immediately declared the winner and takes Office as National Chairman. If two candidates both received exactly the same number of votes, the Incumbent remains in office.

The result of the vote will then be announced on the same day on the party website.

5.8 Election Timeframes and Extraordinary Circumstances

a) The position of National Chairman shall be valid for TWO years.
b) If on the 1st of July of each year, no nominations are received, and the incumbent indicates his or her desire to retain the post, he or she will duly be considered to be re-elected unopposed for a further two years.
c) If the National Chairman resigns, the National Council is to meet at the earliest opportunity and elect an interim National Chairman by majority vote. The interim National Chairman must give notice to the Party via the website of the resignation of the previous National Chairman and arrange a timetable for an election for the Office of National Chairman – this election must take place and be fully concluded within 90 days of the previous National Chairman resigning. If no candidates come forward for the position, the National Council are then free to decide the position of National Chairman via appropriate democratic means.

The National Council

6.1 The National Council is tasked with assisting the National Chairman in running the party and provides a platform for Party Officers to address grievances.

6.2 Membership of the National Council shall be:

a) The National Chairman, elected via popular vote (2 Year Term)
b) National Nominating Officer
c) National Treasurer
d) National Council Officers as appointed by the National Chairman

In the event of any disagreement as to who is to serve on the National Council, the decision of the National Chairman shall be final.

6.3 The registration of Party officers with the Electoral Commission will be made by the National Chairman – in event of the position of National Chairman changing hands via election, the outgoing National Chairman must contact the electoral commission within ten working days from the announcement of the result of the election and ensure that the Electoral Commission is fully notified of the change of position and any necessary paperwork is completed and signed off.

6.4 The National Chairman will also be responsible for appointing all Party Officers that subsequently form the National Council.

6.5 All members of the National Council must be Full Members of the Party.

This is waived during the first 24 months of the party's existence.

6.6 The National Council can meet as often as required, but at a minimum of once every year.

6.7 The agenda for such meetings shall be set by the National Chairman, there shall be a section at the end of each such meeting where any member of the Advisory Council may raise matters of any other business.

6.8 The National Council will be responsible for:

a) developing the policies of the Party in depth;
b) determining the Party's strategies and tactics;
c) preparing the Party's election manifestos;
d) electing from among its members the Treasurer and Secretary;
e) ensuring that proper arrangements are made for the Party Conference;
f) ensuring that proper arrangements are made for the election of the Party Leader;
g) implementing any decisions which the Conference has directed to it
h) appointing the members of the Appeals Panel.

6.9 The National Council shall cause to be drawn up and maintained, as and when required, the following sets of Standing Orders and Rules:

a) Standing Orders for the National Council;
b) Standing Orders and rules for Probationary Members and Full Members;
c) financial rules;
d) rules for the selection of Westminster Parliamentary candidates;
e) rules for the selection of local government candidates;
f) rules for the selection of European Parliamentary candidates; and
g) rules for the selection of House of Lords candidates.
h) Other rules to enable the smooth running of the party

6.10 Meetings of the National Council shall be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council.

6.11 Appointed members of the National Council will serve a term of office until either they decide to resign, or they are dismissed by the National Chairman. No members of the National council can be dismissed from the National Council on the day of a National Council meeting – unless in the case of circumstances covered in 6.13.

6.12 Members of the National Council have basic obligations to attend National Council meetings, to present a short report to the National Council on what they have been doing on behalf of the party since the last meeting and to take specified and agreed responsibilities and to ensure these are carried out as agreed.

6.13 A member may be removed from the National Council in the event of a Council Member missing 3 consecutive National Council Meetings without adequate explanation.

Party officers

7.1 The National Chairman or the National Council with the approval of the National Chairman may appoint, as it sees fit, such Officers or working groups to further the objectives of the Party and this may include but is not limited to:

a) implementing the decisions of the Conference and the National Council;
b) organising and directing national campaigns;
c) managing the organisation and finance of the Party;
d) developing policies;
e) managing the Party's assets.

7.2 The roles of these Party Officers can be rescinded immediately by authorisation of the National Chairman or by a member of the National Council acting on the behalf of the National Chairman.

7.3 The roles of Party Officers do not have a specific time frame attached to them.

7.4 If a Party Officer has their role rescinded by the National Chairman or by a member of the National Council acting on behalf of the National Chairman there is no right to appeal and a new member of the Party can immediately be appointed to that role or the role itself can be dissolved.

Resolution of Conflicts

8.1 There shall be an Appeals Panel for the Party, which shall consist of three members appointed by the National Council. Members of the Appeals Panel may be members of the National Council but not hold the positions of National Chairman, National Treasurer, Nominating Officer or any executive position.

8.2 The Appeals Panel shall adjudicate on:

a) any dispute over the interpretation of any of the clauses of this constitution;
b) any claim that the rights under this constitution of a member or of a Party body have been infringed, provided that no appeal may be brought under this paragraph where there is another appeal procedure;
c) any matter expressly so provided by this constitution or by rules made hereunder.

8.3 The Panel may make and publish rules for its own procedure.

8.4 Any decision of the Panel shall be binding on all parties concerned provided it is considered and supported by the National Council.

Standing Orders of the National Council

9.1 A quorum shall be formed by 4 or more of the members of the National Council, as defined in the constitution of the Party.

9.2 The Chair shall be taken by the National Chairman or in his/her absence; the meeting shall elect an acting Chair from amongst those present.

Financial Rules

10.1 All bank accounts of the Party shall be subject to the authority of the National Council and shall only be opened or closed by resolution of the National Council. Bank mandates shall be approved at a meeting of the National Council. Authorised signatories on cheques, standing orders, direct debits etc. shall always include the person, normally the Treasurer, denoted at the time by the National Council to be responsible for keeping the party financially stable and within the Electoral Commission's accountancy guidelines.

Party's Accounts

11.1 The financial year of the Party will be from 1 January to 31 December.

11.2 The National Council will cause financial accounts to be prepared within 4 months of the end of the financial year and those accounts to be audited.

E-mail

Patriotic Alternative -...

Sent Date 04/02/2020 14:03

E-mail

From Partyreg Cc [redacted] Patriotic Alternative (GB); [redacted]

To [redacted] Bcc

Subject Patriotic Alternative - Application decision CCM:0462845

Dear [redacted]

Refusal of your application to register Patriotic Alternative

I write to inform you that we have refused your application to register Patriotic Alternative. 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 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.

We came to the decision that your constitution did not adequately show the structure and organisation of the party. For the bellow reasons:

I. **There is a provision in the constitution which states The National Chairman/National Council may appoint officers or working groups to further the objectives of the party. This includes 7.1(c) managing the organisation and finance of the party. This indicates someone other than the treasurer can take over the financial responsibility of the party without being a registered officer. This appears to be incompatible with the party's scheme which states that only the person registered as the treasurer has the responsibility for the party's compliance with the act. This provision would allow someone other than the registered treasurer to authorise party spending and provide returns etc.**

II. **Paragraph 10.1 explains authorised signatories on cheques, standing orders, direct debits etc. shall always include the person, *normally* the treasurer, denoted at the time by the National Council to be responsible for keeping the party financially stable and within the Electoral Commission's guidelines. As alluded to in the previous paragraph we are concerned that the party believe the financial obligations of the treasurer can be shared amongst other members. If the party are to resubmit - I recommend the party further clarify this point.**

III. **The constitution does not set out how the party will record decision**

IV. **The constitution does not provide a process for the party to be dissolved.**

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. We could not be satisfied that the scheme set out the arrangements for regulating the financial affairs of the party of the purposes of PPERA. For reasons set out in points I and II above.
On this basis, the proposed scheme was refused 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

Name	Patriotic Alternative	Approve
Emblem	PA	Refuse A proposed emblem cannot be re opinion, a voter's understanding (either on a ballot paper or elsewh hindered by that emblem. In our v emblem is quite prominent and de therefore likely to hinder a voter's this basis, the proposed emblem

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.

Party registration applications ahead of the of the 2020 May Polls

If you would like to register a new political party ahead of the elections taking place on 7 May 2020, please ensure that your application is with us by Monday 10 February 2020.

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.

You can find more information about registering and maintaining your party on our website.

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 2019-10-18-Patriotic Alternative - RP1

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)
image002.png	1,347

1 - 1 of 1 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason Sent

Application to register a political party in Great Britain

The Electoral Commission

This application was submitted electronically to the Electoral Commission on 28/02/2020 at 13:10:34.
PEF Online reference: 10260

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 Patriotic Alternative 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	Y	Scotland	Y	Wales	Y

I also declare that Patriotic Alternative intends to contest one or more elections to the European Parliament in the combined region of Gibraltar and the South West of England.

I declare that Patriotic Alternative has in place the appropriate mechanisms to comply with the regulations which govern the election and financial activities of political parties.

Parliamentary election status

Exempt from UK parliamentary elections: N

Signatures

Proposed registered party leader

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

Signed

Printed name [redacted]

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 [redacted] Date dd mm yyyy

For electoral commission use

Date of receipt dd mm yyyy Checked by

Party name

Primary name: Patriotic Alternative

Language: English

Secondary name

Language

English translation

Address (party headquarters or for correspondence if no HQ)

Address [redacted]

Town [redacted]

County [redacted]

Postcode [redacted]

Country [redacted]

Telephone number [redacted] Extn

Fax number

Email address [redacted]

Website address

Emblems

Emblem Id: 7508

Monochrome emblem



Patriotic Alternative

Colour emblem



Patriotic Alternative

Party officers

Party Leader

Title: [redacted]

First name(s): [redacted]

Surname: [redacted]

Home address: [redacted]

Telephone number: [redacted] Extn:

Fax number:

Email address: [redacted]

If leader for a particular purpose, please specify

Treasurer

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

Nominating Officer

Title	[redacted]
First name(s)	[redacted]
Surname	[redacted]
Home address	[redacted]
	[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
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

Tel: 020 7271 0616
Fax: 020 7271 0505
Email: pef@electoralcommission.org.uk
Website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Financial scheme

Patriotic Alternative

Introduction

1.1 This scheme sets out how Patriotic Alternative ('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 Patriotic Alternative'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 Patriotic Alternative does not wish to register any separate accounting units with the Commission.[1]

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 [redacted] the registered treasurer of Patriotic Alternative is responsible for the whole party's compliance with the requirements of the Act, including the following:

Annual accounts

1.7 The Patriotic Alternative 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

[1] Please refer to sections 2.13 and 2.14 in our brief guide *Registering a political party*.

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, [redacted] 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 Patriotic Alternative 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, [redacted] 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)[2]
- check the permissibility of any donations over £500 within 30 days of receipt[3]
- 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[4]

[2] More details can be found in our guidance documents by visiting our parties pages at: http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance/those-we-regulate/register-a-new-party
[3] See above.
[4] See above.

- 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, [redacted] 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, Patriotic Alternative 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 Patriotic Alternative 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 Patriotic Alternative 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 We 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 Patriotic Alternative 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, [redacted] will ensure that the registered leader and all other officers and members of Patriotic Alternative 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, [name of registered party treasurer], will ensure that any proposed amendments to this financial scheme are submitted to the Commission for approval.

Signed

Leader: [redacted] Date: 18.10.2019

Treasurer: [redacted] Date: 18.10.2019

Nominating officer: [redacted] Date: 18.10.2019

Campaigns officer (if applicable): _____ Date: _____

Other officer (if applicable): _____ Date: _____

Constitution

Introduction

Name

1.1 The Party shall be called the “Patriotic Alternative” (the “Party”)

Constitution

1.2 The Constitution of the Party sets out how the Party will regulate its activities so that its actions and policies reflect the will of the members of the Party and are in accordance with regulatory requirements and general standards of propriety and regularity.

1.3 The members of the Party must approve, by vote at the Annual General Meeting, the Constitution of the Party and any amendments thereto. The National Council may make interim amendments to the constitution; all such amendments must be subsequently approved at the next Annual General Meeting or lapse. Approval of amendments must be by at least a 50% majority of those voting.

Manifesto

1.4 The general principles, objectives and policies of the Party are contained in its manifesto. The National Council is responsible for developing the manifesto and it is for the Annual General Meeting to accept or reject that manifesto in its entirety.

Policy

1.5 The day-to-day adoption and amendment of Party policy shall be the responsibility of the National Chairman and the National Council. All such policy shall conform with and give expression to the general principles and objectives of the Party as set out in its manifesto.

Objectives and Methods

Objectives

2.1 The Party’s principal objectives shall be to provide a patriotic and democratic alternative for the people of Great Britain.

Methods

2.2 The Party shall pursue its aims by means of political activity, democratically organised by members of the Party freely associating together according to the provisions of the constitution.

2.3 The Party aims to stand candidates every level of politics; including by standing candidates in local, county, and parliamentary elections in England, Scotland and Wales.

2.4 Candidates for election will be chosen by a selection process overseen by the National Council.

Membership

3.1 Membership of the Party is open to all those, aged 16 years or over, who broadly agree with its aims, objectives, and policies.

3.2 Membership can be acquired by anyone, whatever their ethnicity, religion or culture, who:

a) has affirmed in writing his or her intention to join the Party;
b) is willing to further the aims of the Party;
c) is not a member of any political party or body that stands in opposition to the Party;
d) agree to abide by the Constitution of the party;
e) has been accepted into membership by the National Chairman and National Council;
f) has paid the annual membership fee in the amount and in the manner determined by the National Council.

3.3 The National Council of the party shall have the sole right to determine the annual subscription payable by members of the party, subject to the provision that any change on the subscription rate determined during any year shall not take effect until the 1st January of the following year.

3.4 All rights and privileges of membership of the party shall be withheld from any persons who allow their membership to fall into arrears.

3.5 The membership of the Party is divided into two parts:-

i) Probationary members
ii) Full members

All new members of the party shall remain probationary members for twelve months from the date of joining and can have their membership terminated by the party's National Chairman or by a member of the National Council authorised by the National Chairman to do so without recourse to the disciplinary procedure afforded to Full Members.

Full Members are members of the party who have served continuously as members of the party for twelve months or more and are currently not in arrears in relation to their membership dues.

3.6 The National Chairman or members of the National Council acting on his behalf shall have the right to expel from membership any Full Member who no longer complies with the requirements of paragraph 3.1 and 3.2 above, or whose behaviour is otherwise damaging to the interests of the party. Any full member so expelled shall have the right of appeal to the Appeals Panel.

3.7 Notwithstanding compliance with 3.1 and 3.2 above, membership may be refused or revoked if there is material disagreement, evidenced by conduct, with the fundamental values and objectives of the party or admission that continued membership would be likely to bring the party into disrepute.

3.8 Any person aggrieved by such a refusal or revocation shall, subject to having exhausted the internal procedures have a right of appeal to the Appeals Panel.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

4.1 The AGM shall be responsible for:

a) approving the Party's manifesto and constitution;
b) approving the Treasurer's Report;
c) addressing with other business put forward to the conference

4.2 All members, can attend the AGM.
- Full Members can vote on all issues
- Probationary Members can attend the conference but cannot vote until they become Full Members.

4.3 The AGM will be held once a year and advertised via email to all those eligible to attend a month in advance.

4.4 All decisions made at the AGM will be recorded and held by the National Council and will available for viewing by any Full Member on request.

The National Chairman

5.1 The National Chairman is the leader of the party and is registered as such with the Electoral Commission.

5.2 The National Chairman of the Party in conjunction with the National Council is entrusted with deciding the political direction of the Party and the management of its day-to-day running.

5.3 The National Chairman always sits on the National Council.

5.4 The National Chairman has full executive authority over the day-today running of the Party.

5.5 The National Chairman is elected by a popular secret postal ballot that all Full Members are eligible to vote in.

5.6 Eligibility for Office of National Chairman

In order to qualify to be a candidate for the office of National Chairman a member must have more than THREE years' continuous membership. In effect, they have to have served their Probationary Membership and TWO full years as a Full Member in order to be qualified to stand. In addition, a candidate must have obtained at least 100 signatures from Full Members of the party. The incumbent National Chairman is not required to obtain any nomination signatures and he or she is automatically eligible for candidacy to the post of National Chairman.

This is waived during the first 35 months of the party's existence. The National Chairman through this period will be [redacted]

5.7 Election Process for the Office of National Chairman

Each year when the Office of National Chairman is up for renewal, all those who wish to stand for the Office of National Chairman must submit their intention to stand, the required signatures of 100 Full Members and their proof of Full Membership of the Party for the required period to the National Council by no later than the 1st of July of that year.

Any candidate wishing to stand for election to the Office of National Chairman must lodge a deposit to cover the cost of said election. This deposit is refundable if the candidate is successful.

If more than one candidate successfully submits their intention to stand for the Office of National Chairman the costs of the deposit are split equally between those candidates and if one of those candidates is successful, that candidate alone is entitled to a refund of their part of the deposit.

This will trigger a vote to determine who will hold the Office of National Chairman.

The National Council will then appoint a Returning Officer to administer the leadership election.

All those who have successfully submitted their intention to stand and have met the criteria necessary will then be contacted immediately by the Returning Officer who will obtain from them a picture and a written statement. These candidates will then have their name, their picture and a statement amounting to no more than five hundred words published on the party website.

All written statements must be approved by the Returning Officer and must not contain libellous or defamatory statements about the other candidate(s).

All Full Members will then be mailed a ballot paper, instructions and a link to the relevant page of the party website by no later than the ten working days from the 1st of July. All full members will then have until the July 31st to respond via postal ballot. Any ballots received after the 31st of July will be discarded.

All ballots will be stored unopened by the Party until the 1st of August when they will opened by the Returning Officer and the votes counted under his or her supervision with all candidates present – if a candidate cannot attend the opening and counting of the votes, he or she can send a delegate in his or her place.

As soon as the votes are counted, the candidate with the highest numbers of votes is immediately declared the winner and takes Office as National Chairman. If two candidates both received exactly the same number of votes, the Incumbent remains in office.

The result of the vote will then be announced on the same day on the party website.

5.8 Election Timeframes and Extraordinary Circumstances

a) The position of National Chairman shall be valid for TWO years.
b) If on the 1st of July of each year, no nominations are received, and the incumbent indicates his or her desire to retain the post, he or she will duly be considered to be re-elected unopposed for a further two years.
c) If the National Chairman resigns, the National Council is to meet at the earliest opportunity and elect an interim National Chairman by majority vote. The interim National Chairman must give notice to the Party via the website of the resignation of the previous National Chairman and arrange a timetable for an election for the Office of National Chairman – this election must take place and be fully concluded within 90 days of the previous National Chairman resigning. If no candidates come forward for the position, the National Council are then free to decide the position of National Chairman via appropriate democratic means.

The National Treasurer

6.1 The National Treasurer is appointed by the National Chairman.

6.2 The National Treasurer must be a member of the party.

6.3 The National Treasurer is in charge of the party finances and registering changes of officers with the Electoral Commission.

6.4 The National Treasurer is in charge of ensuring the party complies with the financial scheme it has adopted.

6.5 The National Treasure is in charge of making sure all the appropriate returns are submitted to the Electoral Commission when required – including the annual accounts.

The National Council

7.1 The National Council is tasked with assisting the National Chairman in running the party and provides a platform for Party Officers to address grievances.

7.2 Membership of the National Council shall be:

a) The National Chairman, elected via popular vote (2 Year Term)
b) National Nominating Officer (appointed by the National Chairman)
c) National Treasurer (appointed by the National Chairman)
d) National Council Officers as appointed by the National Chairman

In the event of any disagreement as to who is to serve on the National Council, the decision of the National Chairman shall be final.

7.3 The registration of Party officers with the Electoral Commission will be made by the National Treasurer – in event of the position of National Chairman changing hands via election, the National Treasurer must submit the correct form to the electoral commission informing them of the change within ten working days from the announcement of the result of the election.

7.4 The National Chairman will also be responsible for appointing all Party Officers that subsequently form the National Council. A list of these officers will be held by the National Council and will be available to be viewed upon request.

7.5 All members of the National Council must be Full Members of the Party.

This is waived during the first 24 months of the party's existence.

7.6 The National Council can meet as often as required, but at a minimum of once every year.

7.7 The agenda for such meetings shall be set by the National Chairman, there shall be a section at the end of each such meeting where any member of the National Council may raise matters of any other business.

7.8 The National Council will be responsible for:

a) developing the policies of the Party in depth;
b) determining the Party's strategies and tactics;
c) preparing the Party's election manifestos;
d) electing from among its members the Treasurer and Secretary;
e) ensuring that proper arrangements are made for the Party Conference;
f) ensuring that proper arrangements are made for the election of the Party Leader;
g) implementing any decisions which the Conference has directed to it

h) appointing the members of the Appeals Panel.

7.9 The National Council shall cause to be drawn up and maintained, as and when required, the following sets of Standing Orders and Rules:

a) Standing Orders for the National Council;
b) Standing Orders and rules for Probationary Members and Full Members;
c) financial rules;
d) rules for the selection of Westminster Parliamentary candidates;
e) rules for the selection of local government candidates;
f) rules for the selection of European Parliamentary candidates; and
g) rules for the selection of House of Lords candidates.
h) Other rules to enable the smooth running of the party

7.10 Meetings of the National Council shall be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council.

7.11 Appointed members of the National Council will serve a term of office until either they decide to resign, or they are dismissed by the National Chairman. No members of the National council can be dismissed from the National Council on the day of a National Council meeting – unless in the case of circumstances covered in 7.13.

7.12 Members of the National Council have basic obligations to attend National Council meetings, to present a short report to the National Council on what they have been doing on behalf of the party since the last meeting and to take specified and agreed responsibilities and to ensure these are carried out as agreed.

7.13 A member may be removed from the National Council in the event of a Council Member missing 3 consecutive National Council Meetings without adequate explanation – this does not apply to the National Chairman, National Treasurer and National Nominating Officer

7.14 The National Chairman, National Treasurer and National Nominating Officer cannot be removed from the National Council and any changes to those positions must be in strict accordance with Electoral Commission guidelines in order to ensure that the party complies fully with the PPERA.

Party officers

8.1 The National Chairman or the National Council with the approval of the National Chairman may appoint, as it sees fit, such Officers or working groups to further the objectives of the Party and this may include but is not limited to:

a) implementing the decisions of the Conference and the National Council;
b) organising and directing national campaigns;
c) managing the organisation;
d) developing policies;
e) managing the Party's assets.

8.2 The roles of these Party Officers can be rescinded immediately by authorisation of the National Chairman or by a member of the National Council acting on the behalf of the National Chairman.

8.3 The roles of Party Officers do not have a specific time frame attached to them.

8.4 If a Party Officer has their role rescinded by the National Chairman or by a member of the National Council acting on behalf of the National Chairman there is no right to appeal and a new member of the Party can immediately be appointed to that role or the role itself can be dissolved.

Resolution of Conflicts

9.1 There shall be an Appeals Panel for the Party, which shall consist of three members appointed by the National Council. Members of the Appeals Panel may be members of the National Council but not hold the positions of National Chairman, National Treasurer, Nominating Officer or any executive position.

9.2 The Appeals Panel shall adjudicate on:

a) any dispute over the interpretation of any of the clauses of this constitution;
b) any claim that the rights under this constitution of a member or of a Party body have been infringed, provided that no appeal may be brought under this paragraph where there is another appeal procedure;
c) any matter expressly so provided by this constitution or by rules made hereunder.

9.3 The Panel may make and publish rules for its own procedure.

9.4 Any decision of the Panel shall be binding on all parties concerned provided it is considered and supported by the National Council.

Standing Orders of the National Council

10.1 A quorum shall be formed by 4 or more of the members of the National Council, as defined in the constitution of the Party.

10.2 The Chair shall be taken by the National Chairman or in his/her absence; the meeting shall elect an acting Chair from amongst those present.

Financial Rules

11.1 All bank accounts of the Party shall be subject to the authority of the National Council and shall only be opened or closed by resolution of the National Council. Bank mandates shall be approved at a meeting of the National Council. Authorised signatories on cheques, standing orders, direct debits etc. shall always include the Treasurer, denoted at the time by the National Council to be responsible for keeping the party financially stable and within the Electoral Commission’s accountancy guidelines.

Party’s Accounts

12.1 The financial year of the Party will be from 1st January to 31st December.

12.2 The National Council will cause financial accounts to be prepared within 4 months of the end

of the financial year and those accounts to be audited.

Party Dissolution

13.1 The party can be dissolved on agreement of the National Council and the National Chairman; this must then be approved by Full Members at a General Meeting.

E-mail

Patriotic Alternative–...

Sent Date 04/05/2020 11:52

E-mail

From	Partyreg	Cc	[redacted] [redacted]
To	[redacted] Patriotic Alternative (GB)	Bcc	
Subject	Patriotic Alternative– Application decision CCM:0462970		

Dear [redacted]

Refusal of your application to register Patriotic Alternative

I write to inform you that we have refused your application to register Patriotic Alternative 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 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 we must be satisfied that it does so before we can approve it. A constitution must be consistent with the party's financial scheme.

We came to the decision that your constitution, did not adequately show the structure and organisation of the party. This is because of the provisions that could result in the leader or treasurer being removed from the national council and it being unclear whether and how they could continue to fulfil their legal duties in that situation.

The constitution explains that a National Council member may be removed from the National Council in the event of a member missing 3 consecutive National council meetings without adequate explanation. If fulfilled this creates a scenario where officers such as the Leader and Treasurer are at risk of not being able to fulfil their duties. For example:

I. **If the treasurer is removed from the national council, they will no longer be involved in the drawing up and maintenance of the party's financial rules as per paragraph 7.9(c).**

II. **The National Council will cause financial accounts to be prepared within 4 months of the end of the financial year and those accounts to be audited. However, If the party treasurer is removed from the national council (as per 7.13), they will no longer be involved in the preparation of the auditing of the party's accounts.**

III. **The party leader (also the party chairman) can be removed from the board. This means the party leader will no longer be entrusted in deciding the political direction of the Party and the management of its day-to-day running.**

IV. **The National Chairman will no longer be able to appoint party officers that subsequently form the National Council.**

Overall, in our view the above demonstrates that if the National Chairman (Leader), or treasurer was to be removed from the National Council, the party could be in a position where they are unable to function.

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. We came to the decision that your constitution did not adequately show the structure and organisation of the party for the reasons outlined above.

On this basis, the proposed scheme was refused and we could not be satisfied 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 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 reaso
Name	Patriotic Alternative	Approve
Emblem		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.

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 2020-02-28-Patriotic Alternative - RP1

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	1,296

1 - 1 of 1 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason Sent

Application to register a political party in Great Britain

The Electoral Commission

This application was submitted electronically to the Electoral Commission on 02/10/2020 at 10:03:35.
PEF Online reference: 10260

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 Patriotic Alternative 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	Y	Scotland	Y	Wales	Y

I also declare that Patriotic Alternative intends to contest one or more elections to the European Parliament in the combined region of Gibraltar and the South West of England.

I declare that Patriotic Alternative has in place the appropriate mechanisms to comply with the regulations which govern the election and financial activities of political parties.

Parliamentary election status

Exempt from UK parliamentary elections: N

Signatures

Proposed registered party leader

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

Signed

Printed name [redacted]

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 [redacted] Date dd mm yyyy

For electoral commission use

Date of receipt dd mm yyyy Checked by

Party name

Primary name: Patriotic Alternative

Language: English

Secondary name

Language

English translation

Address (party headquarters or for correspondence if no HQ)

Address [redacted]

Town [redacted]

County [redacted]

Postcode [redacted]

Country [redacted]

Telephone number [redacted] Extn

Fax number

Email address [redacted]

Website address

Emblems

Emblem Id: 7508

Monochrome emblem



Patriotic Alternative

Colour emblem



Patriotic Alternative

Party officers

Party Leader

Title: [redacted]

First name(s): [redacted]

Surname: [redacted]

Home address: [redacted]

Telephone number: [redacted] Extn:

Fax number:

Email address: [redacted]

If leader for a particular purpose, please specify

Treasurer

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

Nominating Officer

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

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
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

Tel: 020 7271 0616
Fax: 020 7271 0505
Email: pef@electoralcommission.org.uk
Website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Financial scheme

Patriotic Alternative

Introduction

1.1 This scheme sets out how Patriotic Alternative ('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 Patriotic Alternative'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 Patriotic Alternative does not wish to register any separate accounting units with the Commission.[1]

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 [redacted] the registered treasurer of Patriotic Alternative is responsible for the whole party's compliance with the requirements of the Act, including the following:

Annual accounts

1.7 The Patriotic Alternative 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

[1] Please refer to sections 2.13 and 2.14 in our brief guide *Registering a political party*.

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, [redacted] 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 Patriotic Alternative 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, [redacted] 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)[2]
- check the permissibility of any donations over £500 within 30 days of receipt[3]
- 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[4]

[2] More details can be found in our guidance documents by visiting our parties pages at: http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance/those-we-regulate/register-a-new-party
[3] See above.
[4] See above.

- 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, [redacted] 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, Patriotic Alternative 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 Patriotic Alternative 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 Patriotic Alternative 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 We 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 Patriotic Alternative 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, [redacted] will ensure that the registered leader and all other officers and members of Patriotic Alternative 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, [name of registered party treasurer], will ensure that any proposed amendments to this financial scheme are submitted to the Commission for approval.

Signed

Leader: [redacted] Date: 18.10.2019

Treasurer: [redacted] Date: 18.10.2019

Nominating officer: [redacted] Date: 18.10.2019

Campaigns officer (if applicable): _____ Date: _____

Other officer (if applicable): _____ Date: _____

Constitution

Introduction

Name

1.1 The Party shall be called the “Patriotic Alternative” (the “Party”)

Constitution

1.2 The Constitution of the Party sets out how the Party will regulate its activities so that its actions and policies reflect the will of the members of the Party and are in accordance with regulatory requirements and general standards of propriety and regularity.

1.3 The members of the Party must approve, by vote at the Annual General Meeting, the Constitution of the Party and any amendments thereto. The National Council may make interim amendments to the constitution; all such amendments must be subsequently approved at the next Annual General Meeting or lapse. Approval of amendments must be by at least a 50% majority of those voting.

Manifesto

1.4 The general principles, objectives and policies of the Party are contained in its manifesto. The National Council is responsible for developing the manifesto and it is for the Annual General Meeting to accept or reject that manifesto in its entirety.

Policy

1.5 The day-to-day adoption and amendment of Party policy shall be the responsibility of the National Chairman and the National Council. All such policy shall conform with and give expression to the general principles and objectives of the Party as set out in its manifesto.

Objectives and Methods

Objectives

2.1 The Party’s principal objectives shall be to provide a patriotic and democratic alternative for the people of Great Britain.

Methods

2.2 The Party shall pursue its aims by means of political activity, democratically organised by members of the Party freely associating together according to the provisions of the constitution.

2.3 The Party aims to stand candidates every level of politics; including by standing candidates in local, county, and parliamentary elections in England, Scotland and Wales.

2.4 Candidates for election will be chosen by a selection process overseen by the national council.

Membership

3.1 Membership of the Party is open to all those, aged 16 years or over, who broadly agree with its aims, objectives, and policies.

3.2 Membership can be acquired by anyone, whatever their ethnicity, religion or culture, who:

a) has affirmed in writing his or her intention to join the Party;
b) is willing to further the aims of the Party;
c) is not a member of any political party or body that stands in opposition to the Party;
d) agree to abide by the Constitution of the party;
e) has been accepted into membership by the National Chairman and National Council;
f) has paid the annual membership fee in the amount and in the manner determined by the National Council.

3.3 The National Council of the party shall have the sole right to determine the annual subscription payable by members of the party, subject to the provision that any change on the subscription rate determined during any year shall not take effect until the 1st January of the following year.

3.4 All rights and privileges of membership of the party shall be withheld from any persons who allow their membership to fall into arrears.

3.5 The membership of the Party is divided into two parts:-

i) Probationary members
ii) Full members

All new members of the party shall remain probationary members for twelve months from the date of joining and can have their membership terminated by the party's National Chairman or by a member of the National Council authorised by the National Chairman to do so without recourse to the disciplinary procedure afforded to Full Members.

Full Members are members of the party who have served continuously as members of the party for twelve months or more and are currently not in arrears in relation to their membership dues.

3.6 The National Chairman or members of the National Council acting on his behalf shall have the right to expel from membership any Full Member who no longer complies with the requirements of paragraph 3.1 and 3.2 above, or whose behaviour is otherwise damaging to the interests of the party. Any full member so expelled shall have the right of appeal to the Appeals Panel.

3.7 Notwithstanding compliance with 3.1 and 3.2 above, membership may be refused or revoked if there is material disagreement, evidenced by conduct, with the fundamental values and objectives of the party or admission that continued membership would be likely to bring the party into disrepute.

3.8 Any person aggrieved by such a refusal or revocation shall, subject to having exhausted the internal procedures have a right of appeal to the Appeals Panel.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

4.1 The AGM shall be responsible for:

a) approving the Party's manifesto and constitution;
b) approving the Treasurer's Report;
c) addressing with other business put forward to the conference

4.2 All members, can attend the AGM.
- Full Members can vote on all issues
- Probationary Members can attend the conference but cannot vote until they become Full Members.

4.3 The AGM will be held once a year and advertised via email to all those eligible to attend a month in advance.

4.4 All decisions made at the AGM will be recorded and held by the National Council and will available for viewing by any Full Member on request.

The National Chairman

5.1 The National Chairman is the leader of the party and is registered as such with the Electoral Commission.

5.2 The National Chairman of the Party in conjunction with the National Council is entrusted with deciding the political direction of the Party and the management of its day-to-day running.

5.3 The National Chairman always sits on the National Council.

5.4 The National Chairman has full executive authority over the day-today running of the Party.

5.5 The National Chairman is elected by a popular secret postal ballot that all Full Members are eligible to vote in.

5.6 Eligibility for Office of National Chairman

In order to qualify to be a candidate for the office of National Chairman a member must have more than THREE years' continuous membership. In effect, they have to have served their Probationary Membership and TWO full years as a Full Member in order to be qualified to stand. In addition, a candidate must have obtained at least 100 signatures from Full Members of the party. The incumbent National Chairman is not required to obtain any nomination signatures and he or she is automatically eligible for candidacy to the post of National Chairman.

This is waived during the first 35 months of the party's existence. The National Chairman through this period will be [redacted]

5.7 Election Process for the Office of National Chairman

Each year when the Office of National Chairman is up for renewal, all those who wish to stand for the Office of National Chairman must submit their intention to stand, the required signatures of 100 Full Members and their proof of Full Membership of the Party for the required period to the National Council by no later than the 1st of July of that year.

Any candidate wishing to stand for election to the Office of National Chairman must lodge a deposit to cover the cost of said election. This deposit is refundable if the candidate is successful.

If more than one candidate successfully submits their intention to stand for the Office of National Chairman the costs of the deposit are split equally between those candidates and if one of those candidates is successful, that candidate alone is entitled to a refund of their part of the deposit.

This will trigger a vote to determine who will hold the Office of National Chairman.

The National Council will then appoint a Returning Officer to administer the leadership election.

All those who have successfully submitted their intention to stand and have met the criteria necessary will then be contacted immediately by the Returning Officer who will obtain from them a picture and a written statement. These candidates will then have their name, their picture and a statement amounting to no more than five hundred words published on the party website.

All written statements must be approved by the Returning Officer and must not contain libellous or defamatory statements about the other candidate(s).

All Full Members will then be mailed a ballot paper, instructions and a link to the relevant page of the party website by no later than the ten working days from the 1st of July. All full members will then have until the July 31st to respond via postal ballot. Any ballots received after the 31st of July will be discarded.

All ballots will be stored unopened by the Party until the 1st of August when they will opened by the Returning Officer and the votes counted under his or her supervision with all candidates present – if a candidate cannot attend the opening and counting of the votes, he or she can send a delegate in his or her place.

As soon as the votes are counted, the candidate with the highest numbers of votes is immediately declared the winner and takes Office as National Chairman. If two candidates both received exactly the same number of votes, the Incumbent remains in office.

The result of the vote will then be announced on the same day on the party website.

5.8 Election Timeframes and Extraordinary Circumstances

a) The position of National Chairman shall be valid for TWO years.
b) If on the 1st of July of each year, no nominations are received, and the incumbent indicates his or her desire to retain the post, he or she will duly be considered to be re-elected unopposed for a further two years.
c) If the National Chairman resigns, the National Council is to meet at the earliest opportunity and elect an interim National Chairman by majority vote. The interim National Chairman must give notice to the Party via the website of the resignation of the previous National Chairman and arrange a timetable for an election for the Office of National Chairman – this election must take place and be fully concluded within 90 days of the previous National Chairman resigning. If no candidates come forward for the position, the National Council are then free to decide the position of National Chairman via appropriate democratic means.

The National Treasurer

6.1 The National Treasurer is appointed by the National Chairman.

6.2 The National Treasurer must be a member of the party.

6.3 The National Treasurer is in charge of the party finances and registering changes of officers with the Electoral Commission.

6.4 The National Treasurer is in charge of ensuring the party complies with the financial scheme it has adopted.

6.5 The National Treasure is in charge of making sure all the appropriate returns are submitted to the Electoral Commission when required – including the annual accounts.

The National Council

7.1 The National Council is tasked with assisting the National Chairman in running the party and provides a platform for Party Officers to address grievances.

7.2 Membership of the National Council shall be:

a) The National Chairman, elected via popular vote (2 Year Term)
b) National Nominating Officer (appointed by the National Chairman)
c) National Treasurer (appointed by the National Chairman)
d) National Council Officers as appointed by the National Chairman

In the event of any disagreement as to who is to serve on the National Council, the decision of the National Chairman shall be final.

7.3 The registration of Party officers with the Electoral Commission will be made by the National Treasurer – in event of the position of National Chairman changing hands via election, the National Treasurer must submit the correct form to the electoral commission informing them of the change within ten working days from the announcement of the result of the election.

7.4 The National Chairman will also be responsible for appointing all Party Officers that subsequently form the National Council. A list of these officers will be held by the National Council and will be available to be viewed upon request.

7.5 All members of the National Council must be Full Members of the Party.

This is waived during the first 24 months of the party's existence.

7.6 The National Council can meet as often as required, but at a minimum of once every year.

7.7 The agenda for such meetings shall be set by the National Chairman, there shall be a section at the end of each such meeting where any member of the Advisory Council may raise matters of any other business.

7.8 The National Council will be responsible for:

a) developing the policies of the Party in depth;
b) determining the Party's strategies and tactics;
c) preparing the Party's election manifestos;
d) electing from among its members the Treasurer and Secretary;
e) ensuring that proper arrangements are made for the Party Conference;
f) ensuring that proper arrangements are made for the election of the Party Leader;
g) implementing any decisions which the Conference has directed to it

h) appointing the members of the Appeals Panel.

7.9 The National Council shall cause to be drawn up and maintained, as and when required, the following sets of Standing Orders and Rules:

a) Standing Orders for the National Council;
b) Standing Orders and rules for Probationary Members and Full Members;
c) financial rules;
d) rules for the selection of Westminster Parliamentary candidates;
e) rules for the selection of local government candidates;
f) rules for the selection of European Parliamentary candidates; and
g) rules for the selection of House of Lords candidates.
h) Other rules to enable the smooth running of the party

7.10 Meetings of the National Council shall be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council.

7.11 Appointed members of the National Council will serve a term of office until either they decide to resign, or they are dismissed by the National Chairman. No members of the National council can be dismissed from the National Council on the day of a National Council meeting – unless in the case of circumstances covered in 6.13.

7.12 Members of the National Council have basic obligations to attend National Council meetings, to present a short report to the National Council on what they have been doing on behalf of the party since the last meeting and to take specified and agreed responsibilities and to ensure these are carried out as agreed.

7.13 A member may be removed from the National Council in the event of a Council Member missing 3 consecutive National Council Meetings without adequate explanation.

Party officers

8.1 The National Chairman or the National Council with the approval of the National Chairman may appoint, as it sees fit, such Officers or working groups to further the objectives of the Party and this may include but is not limited to:

a) implementing the decisions of the Conference and the National Council;
b) organising and directing national campaigns;
c) managing the organisation;
d) developing policies;
e) managing the Party's assets.

8.2 The roles of these Party Officers can be rescinded immediately by authorisation of the National Chairman or by a member of the National Council acting on the behalf of the National Chairman.

8.3 The roles of Party Officers do not have a specific time frame attached to them.

8.4 If a Party Officer has their role rescinded by the National Chairman or by a member of the National Council acting on behalf of the National Chairman there is no right to appeal and a new member of the Party can immediately be appointed to that role or the role itself can be dissolved.

Resolution of Conflicts

9.1 There shall be an Appeals Panel for the Party, which shall consist of three members appointed by the National Council. Members of the Appeals Panel may be members of the National Council but not hold the positions of National Chairman, National Treasurer, Nominating Officer or any executive position.

9.2 The Appeals Panel shall adjudicate on:

a) any dispute over the interpretation of any of the clauses of this constitution;
b) any claim that the rights under this constitution of a member or of a Party body have been infringed, provided that no appeal may be brought under this paragraph where there is another appeal procedure;
c) any matter expressly so provided by this constitution or by rules made hereunder.

9.3 The Panel may make and publish rules for its own procedure.

9.4 Any decision of the Panel shall be binding on all parties concerned provided it is considered and supported by the National Council.

Standing Orders of the National Council

10.1 A quorum shall be formed by 4 or more of the members of the National Council, as defined in the constitution of the Party.

10.2 The Chair shall be taken by the National Chairman or in his/her absence; the meeting shall elect an acting Chair from amongst those present.

Financial Rules

11.1 All bank accounts of the Party shall be subject to the authority of the National Council and shall only be opened or closed by resolution of the National Council. Bank mandates shall be approved at a meeting of the National Council. Authorised signatories on cheques, standing orders, direct debits etc. shall always include the Treasurer, denoted at the time by the National Council to be responsible for keeping the party financially stable and within the Electoral Commission's accountancy guidelines.

Party's Accounts

12.1 The financial year of the Party will be from 1st January to 31st December.

12.2 The National Council will cause financial accounts to be prepared within 4 months of the end of the financial year and those accounts to be audited.

Party Dissolution

13.1 The party can be dissolved on agreement of the National Council and the National Chairman, this must then be approved by Full Members at a General Meeting.

E-mail

Patriotic Alternative -...

Sent Date 15/01/2021 14:06

E-mail

From	Partyreg	**Cc**	[redacted] [redacted]
To	[redacted] Patriotic Alternative (GB)	**Bcc**	
Subject	Patriotic Alternative - application decision CCM:0389413		

Dear [redacted]

Refusal of your application to register Patriotic Alternative

I write to inform you that we have refused your application to register Patriotic Alternative. 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

A party cannot be registered unless it has supplied a copy if its constitution to us. 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, and must also satisfy equality legislation. If a party does not provide us with a constitution that satisfies this criteria, then the party cannot be registered.

We concluded that the documents you supplied are not a constitution as defined by PPERA. On this basis, the application was refused. The reasons for this are outlined in further detail below.

For completeness, the minded-to decision was to approve the party's financial scheme.

Equalities issues within the party's constitution

We have a duty as a public body to exercise our functions in accordance with the EqA which includes due regard to eliminate discrimination and advance equal opportunity between persons who shared relevant protected characteristics. Where the rules of a party's constitution could discriminate against a person by virtue of that person's protected characteristic(s), the constitution could be deemed unlawful and we may refuse it.

Any association, including a political party, that has at least 25 members and which selects members under the association's rules is subject to the prohibition on discrimination in section 101 of the Equality Act 2010 (EqA) (section 107(2)). Section 101(1) states that an association must not discriminate in the arrangements they make for deciding who to admit as a member, as to the terms on which they are prepared to admit a person to membership or by not accepting a person's application for membership.

"Indirect discrimination" is defined under section 19 of the Equality Act as follows:

"A person (A) discriminates against another (B) if A applies to B a provision, criterion or practice which is discriminatory in relation to a relevant protected characteristic of B's."

The protected characteristics are also defined in section 19 of the Equality Act. These include *race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation.*

Your constitution states that "Membership of the party is open to all those aged 16 years or over who broadly agree with its aims and policies…"

The party lists various policies on its website which persons of certain religions or those who identify as LGBTIQ+ would find it difficult, if not impossible, to support. For instance the party's "plan" lists the following policies:

I. **"Full face coverings will be banned in public and there will be no religious exception to this"**

II. **"Employers will no longer be forced to provide prayer rooms or special conditions for religious groups"**

III. **"Private enterprises have the right to restrict their employees' display of any religious symbols as they see fit"**

IV. **"Those resigning on the grounds of religious objections to working practices will no longer be instantly eligible for state benefits".**

V. **"The traditional family will be promoted as an ideal to be striven for and emulated. No public body will promote any alternative as either equal or superior to the traditional family. To that end, children will be protected from exposure to sexualised material or LGBT propaganda in all public institutions"**

We wrote to you on 02 December 2020 seeking clarification on your constitution in line with the concerns identified above. In response, you provided answers to our questions. We considered the responses you provided as part of our wider consideration. As part of this correspondence, you confirmed that:

"The core aim and objective for the party to provide a 'Patriotic Alternative' for Britain. The aims objectives and policies do include the 'plan'."

After carefully considering these matters, we concluded that the party's constitution did not adhere to equalities law. This is because it contains provisions that would indirectly discriminate persons with protected characteristics from becoming members of the party. On this basis the constitution was not approved and the application refused.

Furthermore, your constitution states that "Membership can be acquired by anyone, whatever their ethnicity religion or culture…". Although we do not regulate the policies of applicant parties, the information provided on the party's publically available website casts doubt on whether the party's constitution accurately reflects the party's membership requirements (i.e. that the party will, in reality, accept members in a non-discriminatory manner) and therefore on whether the constitution accurately determines the structure and organisation of the party.

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. 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 reasoı if relevant
Name	Patriotic Alternative	**Approve**
Emblem		**Reject – Does not meet the requirements of an emblem** **An emblem, by its nature, should comprise primarily of a pictorial or symbolic element. An 'emblem' tha comprises only text is unlikely to satisfy the meaning of an emblem. Our guidance says that we are unlikely to register an emblem that contains only text (see page 18 here).** **As your emblem comprises only text, and no obvious pictorial**

		element, we do not consider that it is an emblem under PPERA and it has therefore been refused.

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.

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]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

Regarding 2020-10-02-Patriotic Alternative - RP1

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	1,254

1 - 1 of 1 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason Sent

Application to register a political party in Great Britain

The Electoral Commission

This application was submitted electronically to the Electoral Commission on 10/02/2021 at 19:55:31.
PEF Online reference: 10260

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 Patriotic Alternative 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	Y	Scotland	Y	Wales	Y

I also declare that Patriotic Alternative intends to contest one or more elections to the European Parliament in the combined region of Gibraltar and the South West of England.

I declare that Patriotic Alternative has in place the appropriate mechanisms to comply with the regulations which govern the election and financial activities of political parties.

Parliamentary election status

Exempt from UK parliamentary elections: N

Signatures

Proposed registered party leader

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

Signed

Printed name [redacted]

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 [redacted] Date dd mm yyyy

For electoral commission use

Date of receipt dd mm yyyy Checked by

Party name

Primary name: Patriotic Alternative

Language: English

Secondary name

Language

English translation

Address (party headquarters or for correspondence if no HQ)

Address [redacted]

Town [redacted]

County [redacted]

Postcode [redacted]

Country [redacted]

Telephone number [redacted] Extn

Fax number

Email address [redacted]

Website address

Emblems

Emblem Id 7508

Monochrome emblem



Patriotic Alternative

Colour emblem



Patriotic Alternative

Emblem Id 7851

Monochrome emblem



Patriotic Alternative

Colour emblem



Patriotic Alternative

Party officers

Party Leader

Title

First name(s)	[redacted]
Surname	[redacted]
Home address	[redacted]
Telephone number	[redacted] Extn
Fax number	
Email address	[redacted]

If leader for a particular purpose, please specify

Treasurer

Title [redacted]

First name(s) [redacted]

Surname [redacted]

Home address [redacted]

Town [redacted]

County

Postcode [redacted]

Country [redacted]

Telephone number [redacted] Extn

Fax number

Email address [redacted]

Nominating Officer

Title [redacted]

First name(s) [redacted]

Surname [redacted]

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
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

Tel: 020 7271 0616
Fax: 020 7271 0505
Email: pef@electoralcommission.org.uk
Website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Financial scheme

Patriotic Alternative

Introduction

1.1 This scheme sets out how Patriotic Alternative ('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 Patriotic Alternative'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 Patriotic Alternative does not wish to register any separate accounting units with the Commission.[1]

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 [redacted] the registered treasurer of Patriotic Alternative is responsible for the whole party's compliance with the requirements of the Act, including the following:

Annual accounts

1.7 The Patriotic Alternative 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

[1] Please refer to sections 2.13 and 2.14 in our brief guide *Registering a political party*.

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, [redacted] 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 Patriotic Alternative 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, [redacted] 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)[2]
- check the permissibility of any donations over £500 within 30 days of receipt[3]
- 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[4]

[2] More details can be found in our guidance documents by visiting our parties pages at: http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance/those-we-regulate/register-a-new-party
[3] See above.
[4] See above.

- 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, [redacted] 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, Patriotic Alternative 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 Patriotic Alternative 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 Patriotic Alternative 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 We 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 Patriotic Alternative 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, [redacted] will ensure that the registered leader and all other officers and members of Patriotic Alternative 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, [name of registered party treasurer], will ensure that any proposed amendments to this financial scheme are submitted to the Commission for approval.

Signed

Leader: [redacted] Date: 18.10.2019

Treasurer: [redacted] Date: 18.10.2019

Nominating officer: [redacted] Date: 18.10.2019

Campaigns officer (if applicable): _____ Date: _____

Other officer (if applicable): _____ Date: _____

Constitution

Introduction

Name

1.1 The Party shall be called the “Patriotic Alternative” (the “Party”)

Constitution

1.2 The Constitution of the Party sets out how the Party will regulate its activities so that its actions and policies reflect the will of the members of the Party and are in accordance with regulatory requirements and general standards of propriety and regularity.

1.3 The members of the Party must approve, by vote at the Annual General Meeting, the Constitution of the Party and any amendments thereto. The National Council may make interim amendments to the constitution; all such amendments must be subsequently approved at the next Annual General Meeting or lapse. Approval of amendments must be by at least a 50% majority of those voting.

Manifesto

1.4 The general principles, objectives and policies of the Party are contained in its manifesto. The National Council is responsible for developing the manifesto and it is for the Annual General Meeting to accept or reject that manifesto in its entirety.

Policy

1.5 The day-to-day adoption and amendment of Party policy shall be the responsibility of the National Chairman and the National Council. All such policy shall conform with and give expression to the general principles and objectives of the Party as set out in its manifesto.

Objectives and Methods

Objectives

2.1 The Party’s principal objectives shall be to provide a patriotic and democratic alternative for the people of Great Britain.

Methods

2.2 The Party shall pursue its aims by means of political activity, democratically organised by members of the Party freely associating together according to the provisions of the constitution.

2.3 The Party aims to stand candidates every level of politics; including by standing candidates in local, county, and parliamentary elections in England, Scotland and Wales.

2.4 Candidates for election will be chosen by a selection process overseen by the National Council.

Membership

3.1 Membership of the Party is open to all those aged 16 years or over.

3.2 Membership can be acquired by anyone, whatever their ethnicity, religion or culture, who:

a) has affirmed in writing his or her intention to join the Party;
b) is willing to further the aims of the Party;
c) is not a member of any political party or body that stands in opposition to the Party;
d) agree to abide by the Constitution of the party;
e) has been accepted into membership by the National Chairman and National Council;
f) has paid the annual membership fee in the amount and in the manner determined by the National Council.

3.3 The National Council of the party shall have the sole right to determine the annual subscription payable by members of the party, subject to the provision that any change on the subscription rate determined during any year shall not take effect until the 1st January of the following year.

3.4 All rights and privileges of membership of the party shall be withheld from any persons who allow their membership to fall into arrears.

3.5 The membership of the Party is divided into two parts:-

i) Probationary members
ii) Full members

All new members of the party shall remain probationary members for twelve months from the date of joining and can have their membership terminated by the party's National Chairman or by a member of the National Council authorised by the National Chairman to do so without recourse to the disciplinary procedure afforded to Full Members.

Full Members are members of the party who have served continuously as members of the party for twelve months or more and are currently not in arrears in relation to their membership dues.

3.6 The National Chairman or members of the National Council acting on his behalf shall have the right to expel from membership any Full Member who no longer complies with the requirements of paragraph 3.1 and 3.2 above, or whose behaviour is otherwise damaging to the interests of the party. Any full member so expelled shall have the right of appeal to the Appeals Panel.

3.7 Notwithstanding compliance with 3.1 and 3.2 above, membership may be refused or revoked if there is material disagreement, evidenced by conduct, with the fundamental values and objectives of the party or admission that continued membership would be likely to bring the party into disrepute.

3.8 Any person aggrieved by such a refusal or revocation shall, subject to having exhausted the internal procedures have a right of appeal to the Appeals Panel.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

4.1 The AGM shall be responsible for:

a) approving the Party's manifesto and constitution;
b) approving the Treasurer's Report;
c) addressing with other business put forward to the conference

4.2 All members, can attend the AGM.
- Full Members can vote on all issues
- Probationary Members can attend the conference but cannot vote until they become Full Members.

4.3 The AGM will be held once a year and advertised via email to all those eligible to attend a month in advance.

4.4 All decisions made at the AGM will be recorded and held by the National Council and will available for viewing by any Full Member on request.

The National Chairman

5.1 The National Chairman is the leader of the party and is registered as such with the Electoral Commission.

5.2 The National Chairman of the Party in conjunction with the National Council is entrusted with deciding the political direction of the Party and the management of its day-to-day running.

5.3 The National Chairman always sits on the National Council.

5.4 The National Chairman has full executive authority over the day-today running of the Party.

5.5 The National Chairman is elected by a popular secret postal ballot that all Full Members are eligible to vote in.

5.6 Eligibility for Office of National Chairman

In order to qualify to be a candidate for the office of National Chairman a member must have more than THREE years' continuous membership. In effect, they have to have served their Probationary Membership and TWO full years as a Full Member in order to be qualified to stand. In addition, a candidate must have obtained at least 100 signatures from Full Members of the party. The incumbent National Chairman is not required to obtain any nomination signatures and he or she is automatically eligible for candidacy to the post of National Chairman.

This is waived during the first 35 months of the party's existence. The National Chairman through this period will be [redacted]

5.7 Election Process for the Office of National Chairman

Each year when the Office of National Chairman is up for renewal, all those who wish to stand for the Office of National Chairman must submit their intention to stand, the required signatures of 100 Full Members and their proof of Full Membership of the Party for the required period to the National Council by no later than the 1st of July of that year.

Any candidate wishing to stand for election to the Office of National Chairman must lodge a deposit to cover the cost of said election. This deposit is refundable if the candidate is successful. If more than one candidate successfully submits their intention to stand for the Office of National

Chairman the costs of the deposit are split equally between those candidates and if one of those candidates is successful, that candidate alone is entitled to a refund of their part of the deposit.

This will trigger a vote to determine who will hold the Office of National Chairman.

The National Council will then appoint a Returning Officer to administer the leadership election.

All those who have successfully submitted their intention to stand and have met the criteria necessary will then be contacted immediately by the Returning Officer who will obtain from them a picture and a written statement. These candidates will then have their name, their picture and a statement amounting to no more than five hundred words published on the party website.

All written statements must be approved by the Returning Officer and must not contain libellous or defamatory statements about the other candidate(s).

All Full Members will then be mailed a ballot paper, instructions and a link to the relevant page of the party website by no later than the ten working days from the 1st of July. All full members will then have until the July 31st to respond via postal ballot. Any ballots received after the 31st of July will be discarded.

All ballots will be stored unopened by the Party until the 1st of August when they will opened by the Returning Officer and the votes counted under his or her supervision with all candidates present – if a candidate cannot attend the opening and counting of the votes, he or she can send a delegate in his or her place.

As soon as the votes are counted, the candidate with the highest numbers of votes is immediately declared the winner and takes Office as National Chairman. If two candidates both received exactly the same number of votes, the Incumbent remains in office.

The result of the vote will then be announced on the same day on the party website.

5.8 Election Timeframes and Extraordinary Circumstances

a) The position of National Chairman shall be valid for TWO years.
b) If on the 1st of July of each year, no nominations are received, and the incumbent indicates his or her desire to retain the post, he or she will duly be considered to be re-elected unopposed for a further two years.
c) If the National Chairman resigns, the National Council is to meet at the earliest opportunity and elect an interim National Chairman by majority vote. The interim National Chairman must give notice to the Party via the website of the resignation of the previous National Chairman and arrange a timetable for an election for the Office of National Chairman – this election must take place and be fully concluded within 90 days of the previous National Chairman resigning. If no candidates come forward for the position, the National Council are then free to decide the position of National Chairman via appropriate democratic means.

The National Treasurer

6.1 The National Treasurer is appointed by the National Chairman.

6.2 The National Treasurer must be a member of the party.

6.3 The National Treasurer is in charge of the party finances and registering changes of officers with the Electoral Commission.

6.4 The National Treasurer is in charge of ensuring the party complies with the financial scheme it has adopted.

6.5 The National Treasure is in charge of making sure all the appropriate returns are submitted to the Electoral Commission when required – including the annual accounts.

The National Council

7.1 The National Council is tasked with assisting the National Chairman in running the party and provides a platform for Party Officers to address grievances.

7.2 Membership of the National Council shall be:

a) The National Chairman, elected via popular vote (2 Year Term)
b) National Nominating Officer (appointed by the National Chairman)
c) National Treasurer (appointed by the National Chairman)
d) National Council Officers as appointed by the National Chairman

In the event of any disagreement as to who is to serve on the National Council, the decision of the National Chairman shall be final.

7.3 The registration of Party officers with the Electoral Commission will be made by the National Treasurer – in event of the position of National Chairman changing hands via election, the National Treasurer must submit the correct form to the electoral commission informing them of the change within ten working days from the announcement of the result of the election.

7.4 The National Chairman will also be responsible for appointing all Party Officers that subsequently form the National Council. A list of these officers will be held by the National Council and will be available to be viewed upon request.

7.5 All members of the National Council must be Full Members of the Party.

This is waived during the first 24 months of the party's existence.

7.6 The National Council can meet as often as required, but at a minimum of once every year.

7.7 The agenda for such meetings shall be set by the National Chairman, there shall be a section at the end of each such meeting where any member of the National Council may raise matters of any other business.

7.8 The National Council will be responsible for:

a) developing the policies of the Party in depth;
b) determining the Party's strategies and tactics;
c) preparing the Party's election manifestos;
d) electing from among its members the Treasurer and Secretary;
e) ensuring that proper arrangements are made for the Party Conference;
f) ensuring that proper arrangements are made for the election of the Party Leader;
g) implementing any decisions which the Conference has directed to it
h) appointing the members of the Appeals Panel.

7.9 The National Council shall cause to be drawn up and maintained, as and when required, the following sets of Standing Orders and Rules:

a) Standing Orders for the National Council;
b) Standing Orders and rules for Probationary Members and Full Members;
c) financial rules;
d) rules for the selection of Westminster Parliamentary candidates;
e) rules for the selection of local government candidates;
f) rules for the selection of European Parliamentary candidates; and
g) rules for the selection of House of Lords candidates.
h) Other rules to enable the smooth running of the party

7.10 Meetings of the National Council shall be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council.

7.11 Appointed members of the National Council will serve a term of office until either they decide to resign, or they are dismissed by the National Chairman. No members of the National council can be dismissed from the National Council on the day of a National Council meeting – unless in the case of circumstances covered in 7.13.

7.12 Members of the National Council have basic obligations to attend National Council meetings, to present a short report to the National Council on what they have been doing on behalf of the party since the last meeting and to take specified and agreed responsibilities and to ensure these are carried out as agreed.

7.13 A member may be removed from the National Council in the event of a Council Member missing 3 consecutive National Council Meetings without adequate explanation – this does not apply to the National Chairman, National Treasurer and National Nominating Officer

7.14 The National Chairman, National Treasurer and National Nominating Officer cannot be removed from the National Council and any changes to those positions must be in strict accordance with Electoral Commission guidelines in order to ensure that the party complies fully with the PPERA.

Party officers

8.1 The National Chairman or the National Council with the approval of the National Chairman may appoint, as it sees fit, such Officers or working groups to further the objectives of the Party and this may include but is not limited to:

a) implementing the decisions of the Conference and the National Council;
b) organising and directing national campaigns;
c) managing the organisation;
d) developing policies;
e) managing the Party's assets.

8.2 The roles of these Party Officers can be rescinded immediately by authorisation of the National Chairman or by a member of the National Council acting on the behalf of the National Chairman.

8.3 The roles of Party Officers do not have a specific time frame attached to them.

8.4 If a Party Officer has their role rescinded by the National Chairman or by a member of the National Council acting on behalf of the National Chairman there is no right to appeal and a new member of the Party can immediately be appointed to that role or the role itself can be dissolved.

Resolution of Conflicts

9.1 There shall be an Appeals Panel for the Party, which shall consist of three members appointed by the National Council. Members of the Appeals Panel may be members of the National Council but not hold the positions of National Chairman, National Treasurer, Nominating Officer or any executive position.

9.2 The Appeals Panel shall adjudicate on:

a) any dispute over the interpretation of any of the clauses of this constitution;
b) any claim that the rights under this constitution of a member or of a Party body have been infringed, provided that no appeal may be brought under this paragraph where there is another appeal procedure;
c) any matter expressly so provided by this constitution or by rules made hereunder.

9.3 The Panel may make and publish rules for its own procedure.

9.4 Any decision of the Panel shall be binding on all parties concerned provided it is considered and supported by the National Council.

Standing Orders of the National Council

10.1 A quorum shall be formed by 4 or more of the members of the National Council, as defined in the constitution of the Party.

10.2 The Chair shall be taken by the National Chairman or in his/her absence; the meeting shall elect an acting Chair from amongst those present.

Financial Rules

11.1 All bank accounts of the Party shall be subject to the authority of the National Council and shall only be opened or closed by resolution of the National Council. Bank mandates shall be approved at a meeting of the National Council. Authorised signatories on cheques, standing orders, direct debits etc. shall always include the Treasurer, denoted at the time by the National Council to be responsible for keeping the party financially stable and within the Electoral Commission’s accountancy guidelines.

Party’s Accounts

12.1 The financial year of the Party will be from 1st January to 31st December.

12.2 The National Council will cause financial accounts to be prepared within 4 months of the end of the financial year and those accounts to be audited.

Party Dissolution

13.1 The party can be dissolved on agreement of the National Council and the National Chairman; this must then be approved by Full Members at a General Meeting.