

# Campaign expenditure return by a party on the Northern Ireland register

## Guidance on form RP11 (NI)

All parties on the Northern Ireland register of political parties that contest elections to any of the institutions listed below are required to submit a campaign expenditure return to The Electoral Commission:

- UK Parliament;
- Northern Ireland Assembly.

A party's campaign expenditure return must list **each** item of expenditure incurred by or on behalf of the party at the election in question. **Parties that contest an election but which do not incur campaign expenditure are required to submit a return to the Commission indicating that no campaign expenditure was incurred.**

Campaign expenditure returns should be submitted within three months of the date of the election if expenditure was £250,000 or less, and within six months of the date of the election if expenditure was more than £250,000.

Political parties that are not contesting an election but which incur expenditure in support of another party or candidate are required to adhere to controls on national and local third party expenditure. Guidance on third party spending is available on the Commission's website.

## Further guidance

These notes provide information on completing the campaign expenditure return. General guidance on campaign expenditure can be found on the Commission's website. Further information is available from:

### 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](mailto:pef@electoralcommission.org.uk)

Web: [www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)

# Explanatory notes on completing form RP11 (NI)

Each note corresponds to a numbered section on form RP11 (NI)

## Section A

### A1 Details of registered party

Please enter the following details (these should also be entered at the top of each page of the return in the space provided):

- the party name;
- the regulated period covered by the return;
- the election to which the return relates e.g. Parliamentary general election.

In addition, please insert the party reference number.

### A2 Declaration and signature

The declaration must be signed by:

- the registered party campaigns officer if one has been appointed; or
- the registered party treasurer.

Please note that if a campaigns officer has been appointed, the campaigns officer is legally responsible for the party's campaign expenditure and **must** sign the declaration.

**Important:** It is an offence for a person to make a false declaration knowingly or recklessly, or to fail to submit a return by the relevant deadline.

### A3 Audited return

Campaign expenditure returns detailing expenditure of more than £250,000 must be accompanied by a report by an independent auditor. Where applicable, the name and address of the auditor must be given.

## Section B: Summary of expenditure

All figures should be rounded to the nearest pound.

### B1 Types of payment

Please give details of:

- the total of payments made;
- the total of notional expenditure incurred;
- the total of unpaid claims;
- the total of disputed claims;
- the total expenditure incurred (**i.e., the sum of all of the above**).

### B2 Constituencies/regions contested

Please specify the number of constituencies or regions contested at the election to which the return relates.

### B3 Categories of expenditure (A-I)

Please give the total amount of expenditure incurred in each of the following categories of expenditure:

- party political broadcasts;
- advertising and publicity material;
- unsolicited material to electors;
- manifesto / party policy documents;
- market research / canvassing;
- media;
- transport;
- rallies and other events;
- overheads and general administration;
- the total expenditure incurred (**i.e., the sum of all of the above**).

Please note that the figure of total expenditure at B3 should be the same as the total expenditure figure given at B1 (i.e., the amounts in B3 should include any notional expenditure incurred, unpaid claims and disputed claims).

## Section C: Payments made

In the following sections, please number each item of expenditure in the box provided. All figures should be rounded to the nearest pound.

### C1 Actual payments

#### Category of expense (A-I)

Please insert the appropriate category of expenditure using the letters shown at B3 the summary of expenditure, e.g. expenditure on transport would be the letter G.

#### Amount

Please insert the amount of expenditure incurred on each item.

#### Date expense incurred

Please insert the date on which the expenditure was incurred by or on behalf of the party.

#### Date of claim for payment

Please give the date of the claim for payment from the supplier (usually the date on the invoice).

#### Date claim paid

This is the date on which the invoice was paid. This will be the date shown on any receipt.

#### Supplier

Please give the full name and address of the supplier of the goods or services to which each item relates.

#### Invoice/receipt submitted

An invoice or receipt must be submitted for any item of expenditure of more than £200. Please indicate whether a document has been enclosed with the return.

### C2 Notional expenditure

#### Category of expense (A-I)

Please insert the appropriate category of expenditure using the letters shown at B3 the summary of expenditure, e.g. expenditure on transport would be the letter G.

#### Value

Please insert the value of the notional expenditure on goods or services provided.

#### Nature of expenditure

Please provide a description of the goods and services for which the expenditure was incurred, e.g. hire of a delivery van for a period of three weeks.

#### Period/date expenditure incurred

Please insert the date or period when the expenditure was incurred.

#### Supplier

Please give the full name and address of the supplier of the goods or services to which each item relates.

#### Declaration if over £200

The campaigns officer or treasurer (or one of his deputies) must provide a declaration describing the services received and the amount of each item of notional expenditure with a value of more than £200. Please indicate whether each item has been included in the declaration at the back of the return.

Please see section F for important information about the publication of details of notional expenditure.

## **Section D: Statement of unpaid claims**

### **Category of expense (A-I)**

Please insert the appropriate category of expenditure using the letters shown at B3 in the summary of expenditure, e.g. expenditure on transport would be the letter G.

### **Amount**

Please insert the amount of the unpaid claim or invoice.

### **Date expense incurred**

Please insert the date on which the expenditure was incurred by or on behalf of the party.

### **Date of invoice**

Please insert the date shown on the invoice relating to the payment.

### **Supplier**

Please give the full name and address of the supplier of the goods or services to which each item relates.

### **Comments**

This section should be used for any additional information, such as the reason for not having paid the claim.

## **Section E: Statement of disputed claims**

### **Category of expense**

Please insert the appropriate category of expenditure using the letters shown at B3 in the summary of expenditure, e.g. expenditure on transport would be the letter G.

### **Amount**

Please insert the amount of the disputed claim or invoice.

### **Date of disputed claim**

Please insert the date on which it is alleged that the expenditure was incurred by or on behalf of the recognised third party.

### **Date of invoice**

Please insert the date shown on the invoice relating to the payment.

### **Supplier**

Please give the full name and address of the supplier of the goods or services to which each item relates.

### **Comments**

This section should be used for any additional information such as the grounds for the dispute between the party and the supplier.

## **Section F: Declaration of amount of notional expenditure**

The party campaigns officer (or treasurer) or one of his deputies must submit a declaration of the amount of each item of notional expenditure exceeding £200. Section F (and continuation sheets if necessary) should be used for this purpose.

The details of each item of notional expenditure should be entered into the table at section F item, and the accompanying declaration must be signed.

**Important:** notional expenditure will, in most cases, constitute a donation to a party.

Please return this form to:

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The Electoral Commission  
3 Bunhill Row  
London  
EC1Y 8YZ

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