

[REDACTED]

From: FOI
Sent: 11 October 2023 09:05
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 128-23 - Response
Attachments: FOI 128-23 - documents for response.pdf

Dear [REDACTED],

Our Ref: FOI-128-23

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 18 August 2023.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly. In this case, we contacted you on 7 September 2023 to explain that we were extending the statutory timeframe of 20 working days by a further 20 working days to enable us to consider the Public Interest Test. We are now responding within that extended period.

Your request is shown below followed by our response.

All communications between the Electoral Commission and Angus MacDonald, a Permitted Participant in the 2014 referendum, before, during and after the 2014 Scottish Independence referendum.

By communications I mean any recorded communications including, but not limited to, emails, phone calls and notes from face-to-face meetings including the accounts submitted to the Electoral Commission with details of donations and spending and any other written correspondence and transactions between Angus MacDonald and the Electoral Commission.

Our response is as follows:

We hold the information you have requested.

The information is attached.

Section 21 exemption

Section 21 of the FOI Act provides for an exemption where the information requested is reasonably accessible to you by other means. Information on donations and spending by the permitted participant Angus MacDonald has already been published on our public party finance database. Permitted participants at the referendum were required to report the details of all individual donations of over £7,500. Donations of over £500 and up to £7,500 were reported as a cumulative total and the details of the individual donations between these amounts are not published.

You can find the published information here:

[Registration as a permitted participant at the Scottish independence referendum](#)

[Spending at the 2014 Scottish independence referendum](#)

[Reported donations to Angus Macdonald at the Scottish independence referendum](#)

Section 40(2) exemption

Section 40(2) of the FOI Act provides for an exemption where the information requested constitutes personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA), and where release of the information requested would breach one of the data protection principles. Some of the information held falls within the description of personal data as defined by the DPA because the information relates directly to an identifiable living individual. This includes contact details of individuals. We have redacted all such information.

We have also redacted some information which did not fall within the scope of your request, for example where internal e-mails contained references to other issues which were not related to the permitted participant, Angus MacDonald.

Neither the exemptions noted above required us to consider the Public Interest Test (PIT), and the decision not to use an exemption requiring PIT was made after we contacted you to extend the response deadline.

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

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Received: 15/01/2015 16:43
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: The Transparency of Lobbying, Non-party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014 CCM:0256408

Dear permitted participant

I want to draw your attention to *the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014*, which regulates non-party campaigning for the UK Parliamentary general election. Since you were a registered campaigner at the Scottish Independence Referendum, you may be considering campaigning for the UK Parliamentary general election, and I therefore thought it wise to draw its provisions to your attention.

There are rules on spending by individuals and organisations that undertake certain types of campaigning at the UK Parliamentary general election, but do not stand as political parties or candidates. These individuals and organisations are called "non-party campaigners". These rules are intended to ensure there is transparency about spending on campaigning at major elections, and there are limits on how much people can spend in the run up to these polls.

Spending on campaign activity by non-party campaigners will be regulated if the activity can reasonably be regarded as intended to influence voters to vote for or against one or more political parties or a 'category of candidates'. Regulated campaign activities are:

- publishing or distributing election material (such as leaflets, adverts and websites) to the public
- canvassing and market research (including the use of phone banks) members of the public
- public rallies and public events
- press conferences or other media events that you organise
- transport in connection with publicising your campaign (including battles buses)

If you are spending over £10,000 in any of Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland or £20,000 in England on these activities between 19 September 2014 and the UK Parliamentary general election on 7 May 2015 you will need to register with us.

To assist you, we have further information on these rules in our guidance for non-party campaigners. This can be found on our website in the following location <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/party-or-campaigner/non-party-campaigners>.

You may find our [Introduction to non-party campaigning](#) and our [Overview of regulated non-party](#) campaigning particularly useful.

Once you have read our guidance, please feel free to contact me to discuss whether the rules apply to you and, if so, what you will need to do.

Best regards


Referendum Officer
The Electoral Commission
Lothian Chambers
59-63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1RN
Tel: 

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Received: 15/12/2014 14:56
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Changes to the Electoral Commission's leave to pay guidance CCM:0256388

Dear All

To ensure transparency in paying referendum expenses the Scottish Independence Referendum Act 2013 sets out deadlines for the issuing and payment of invoices. As a permitted participant at the Scottish Independence Referendum you are aware that all invoices relating to referendum expenses must have been received by 18 October and paid no later than 17 November 2014. Paying invoices after the deadline is an offence under Schedule 4 paragraph 15(3)(b) without a reasonable excuse.

The Electoral Commission has amended the Leave to Pay guidance. The guidance now includes additional guidance on applying for leave to pay when an invoice is received on time but not paid within the deadline of 17 November 2014. For more information on Leave to Pay please see our [guidance](#).

If you need to apply for Leave to Pay please use this form: http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0020/170084/For_mLTP1_FINAL_290714.pdf

and return it to either:

scotreferendum@electoralcommission.org.uk

or post it to:

The Electoral Commission, Lothian Chambers

59-63 George IV Bridge

Edinburgh, EH1 1RN

If you have any questions on the amended Leave to Pay guidance, do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Referendum Officer
The Electoral Commission
Lothian Chambers
59-63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1RN
Tel: [REDACTED]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk

----- Original Message -----

From: Angus MacDonald

Received: 11/12/2014 14:57

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Referendum on Independence for Scotland Post Poll Reminder

I have sent it all to you (only 19 receipts you will be pleased to know)

Angus MacDonald OBE, DL

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk]

Sent: 11 December 2014 14:02

To: Angus MacDonald

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Referendum on Independence for Scotland Post Poll Reminder

Hi Mr Macdonald,

Yes you can post receipts if that'd be easier than scanning. If that is what you decide to do, please post them to the address in my (and [REDACTED]) email signature.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

Compliance Officer

The Electoral Commission

3 Bunhill Row

London

EC1Y 8YZ

Tel: [REDACTED]

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

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 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Angus MacDonald [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 December 2014 12:03

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Referendum on Independence for Scotland Post Poll Reminder

Afternoon all. I have completed everything about 6 weeks ago. The only thing I haven't done is scanned in the actual receipts. May I post them pls/ To who and where?
thankyou

Angus MacDonald OBE
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk]
Sent: 11 December 2014 12:01
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Referendum on Independence for Scotland Post Poll Reminder

Dear Responsible Person,

Why we are writing to you

As the responsible person for a registered campaigner in the referendum on independence for Scotland, you must submit a campaign expenditure return to us.

- If your campaign expenditure was £250,000 or less you must report to us on or before **18 December 2014.**
- If your campaign expenditure was more than £250,000 you must report to us on or before **18 March 2015.**
- If you spent less than £10,000 during the referendum period you must submit a nil return on or before **18 December 2014.**

It is your responsibility to submit a complete and correct return as required by the Scottish Independence Referendum Act 2013

You should read our guidance to further understand what should be reported and what information you need to include in your campaign spending return:

Overview of donations for referendum campaigners
Overview of transactions for referendum campaigners
Overview of referendum spending

What do you need to do?

Campaign spending

You must submit a return to us listing all expenditure activities that were intended to promote or bring about a particular outcome in the referendum.

A form for the campaign spending return can be found on [our website](#).

If you did not spend more than £10,000 in total on your referendum campaign you must submit to us a return stating that your expenditure was £10,000 or less which can also be found [on our website](#).

Donations and transactions

If you spent over £10,000, your return must also include a statement of donations you accepted or loans entered into during the regulated period.

Regulated transactions include loans of money, credit facilities such as credit cards and overdrafts and securities or guarantees for your obligations to someone else.

How do I submit a return to the Commission?

We recommend that you complete and submit returns online using our interactive website, [PEF Online](#). In order to use the system, the responsible person will need access to the participant's online account. If you do not have an account registered with the Commission, please email pef@electoralcommission.org.uk to request that an account be set up. If you are unable to use the online system you can [email](#), fax or post completed forms to the Commission.

What happens if you do not submit on time?

It is a legal requirement to submit returns on time. If you submit your return late, you may be subject to sanctions including a penalty of at least £200. Failure to submit a return on time may also result in you being referred to the Commission's Casework and Investigation Team in line with our [enforcement policy](#):

Can We Help?

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, or about submitting your pre-poll reports, please contact a member of the Commission's Compliance Team:

-  [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk)
-  [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk)

Alternatively you can contact our Party & Election finance advice line on 020 7271 0616 or email pef@electoralcommission.org.uk

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Compliance Manager

[REDACTED]
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

Tel: [REDACTED]

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

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 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 October 2014 14:19
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Angus MacDonald

Hi [REDACTED]

Andy and I met with Angus MacDonald. He seemed to be fairly on top of his return.

One issue came up. Near the end of his campaign he put a call out to people he knew for donations and was successful in getting £86,000. This was in 33 donations the vast majority were over £500 and all less than £7,500. We asked if he checked permissibility of the donations and he said that he had not but that he knew they were all on the electoral register. We advised that he check permissibility as soon as possible. We refreshed his knowledge of the permissibility rules. He said he would check permissibility.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Senior Referendum Officer
The Electoral Commission
Lothian Chambers
59-63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1RN
Mob: [REDACTED]
Tel: [REDACTED]
Textphone: 18001 0131 225 0200
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

----- Original Message -----

From: Angus MacDonald
Received: 06/10/2014 11:49
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Reporting on spending, donations and loans CCM:0256342

[REDACTED], you need receipts for spend over £200 I recall???

Angus MacDonald OBE, DL

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk]
Sent: 06 October 2014 11:41
To: Angus MacDonald
Subject: RE: Reporting on spending, donations and loans CCM:0256342

Great, I have scheduled 21 October at 16:30.
If you have any questions in the meantime feel free to contact us.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Referendum Officer
The Electoral Commission
Lothian Chambers
59-63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1RN
Tel: [REDACTED]

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Angus MacDonald [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 October 2014 11:31
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Reporting on spending, donations and loans CCM:0256342

Lets go for 4.30. thanks [REDACTED]

Angus MacDonald OBE, DL
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk]

Sent: 06 October 2014 10:22

To: Angus MacDonald

Subject: RE: Reporting on spending, donations and loans CCM:0256342

Good morning,

The 21st October would be fine, would it be possible to schedule it either at 15:00 or 16:30 instead?

Regards

[REDACTED]
Referendum Officer

The Electoral Commission

Lothian Chambers

59-63 George IV Bridge

Edinburgh EH1 1RN

Tel: [REDACTED]

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Angus MacDonald [REDACTED]

Sent: 06 October 2014 10:09

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Reporting on spending, donations and loans CCM:0256342

[REDACTED], good morning. Might 4pm on the 21st October suit? I am in Edinburgh that afternoon
thankyou

Angus MacDonald OBE, DL
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk]
Sent: 06 October 2014 09:59
To: Angus MacDonald
Subject: RE: Reporting on spending, donations and loans CCM:0256342

Dear Mr Macdonald

We would be able to schedule a meeting with you on the 15th of October or any day after that. Please let me or [REDACTED] know which time would suit you the best.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Referendum Officer
The Electoral Commission
Lothian Chambers
59-63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1RN
Tel: [REDACTED]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: [REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk]
Sent: 03 October 2014 16:03
To: Angus MacDonald
Subject: Reporting on spending, donations and loans CCM:0256342

Dear Mr Macdonald

Please see attached a letter from [REDACTED] for your attention.

Yours sincerely

Referendum Officer
The Electoral Commission
Lothian Chambers
59-63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1RN
Tel: [REDACTED]

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

Mr Angus Macdonald
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

3 October 2014

Dear Mr Macdonald

Reporting spending, donations and loans after the referendum on independence for Scotland

I am writing to you as you were a permitted participant in the Scottish Independence Referendum. You will be aware that you are required to report referendum spending, donations and loans to the Commission.

If your campaign expenditure was £250,000 or less you must report to us by midnight on **18 December 2014**

If your campaign expenditure was more than £250,000 you must report to us by midnight on **18 March 2015**.

If you have spent less than £10,000 during the referendum period you must submit a nil return by **18 December 2015**.

Meeting

It is your responsibility to submit a complete and correct return as required by the Scottish Independence Referendum Act 2013

If you have spent £250,000 or less on campaigning we would like to meet you before the end of November 2014 to run through the reporting requirements and to answer any questions that you may have.

The Electoral Commission
Lothian Chambers
59–63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1RN

Tel: 0131 225 0200
Fax: 0131 225 0205
infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk
www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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If you have spent more than £250,000 we would like to meet with you in December 2014.

To arrange a time to do this can you please contact me on

██████████@electoralcommission.org.uk or ██████████

Guidance

Our guidance for campaigners sets out what spending you must report and what you must report in relation to donations and loans. You can see the guidance on spending here:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/164393/to-ref-spending.pdf

Our guidance on donations and loans and the permissibility of donations and can be found at the following links.

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/164391/to-ris-ref-donations.pdf

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/164392/to-ris-ref-loans.pdf

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/164396/sp-ris-permissibility.pdf

You may also wish to look at our expert paper on splitting spending which can be found here:

[http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/155564/Expert Paper Splitting campaign spending.pdf](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/155564/Expert_Paper_Splitting_campaign_spending.pdf)

Forms

You can find the forms for reporting spending here:

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/party-or-campaigner/campaigners-in-referendums#>

Leave to Pay

You must receive all invoices from your suppliers by 18 October. Any invoices received after this date cannot be paid and you will have to apply to us to get permission to pay them. Our guidance on this can be found here:

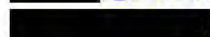
http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/170092/Leave-to-pay-guidance.pdf

Yours sincerely



Senior Referendum Officer

 [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:_____@electoralcommission.org.uk)



----- Original Message -----

From: Angus MacDonald

Received: 19/09/2014 09:29

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Advertisement in The Herald CCM:0204015

Thanks for the email.

I was stunned to see this ad. It wasn't placed by me or anyone connected to me.

I cannot even figure out how they got the artwork.

I enquired of our agency if they could find out what happened. Response here

Hi chaps,

The Herald ad was booked by James Mortimer who runs Lynnet Leisure (<http://lynnetleisure.com/>)

Best

It must have cost £7,000 or so.

I used an agency called Republic to place the ads in the other titles.

Angus MacDonald OBE

From: [REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk]

Sent: 19 September 2014 09:06

To: Angus MacDonald

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Advertisement in The Herald CCM:0204015

Dear Mr MacDonald

Please find attached a letter regarding your recent advertisements. It is self-explanatory, but if in the meantime you require any clarity or assistance, please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Casework & Investigations Manager

The Electoral Commission

3 Bunhill Row

London EC1Y 8YZ

Tel: [REDACTED]

Mr Angus MacDonald
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

19 September 2014

Dear Mr MacDonald

It has come to our attention that you may have placed a series of advertisements in 'The Metro' and 'The Sun' newspapers on 16 September 2014 and 'The Herald' and 'Daily Record' newspapers on 17 September 2014 (headed "Who do the SNP think that they are kidding?")

Schedule 4 Part 4 paragraph 27 of the Scottish Independence Referendum Act 2013 (SIRA) states that all material wholly or mainly relating to the referendum published in the regulated period must display an 'imprint'. Where the material is an advertisement in a newspaper, it must under paragraph 27(5) contain the name and address of the promoter of the material and that of the person on behalf of who the material is being published (and who is not the promoter). The advertisements were published during the regulated period.

Although the advertisements that appeared in the Metro, Sun and Daily Record all carried an imprint; the subsequent advertisement published in Wednesday's edition of The Herald, failed to do so.

I would be grateful if you would confirm by 5pm Monday 22 September 2014 the following information:

- Whether you are responsible for placing all of the above mentioned advertisements or if they were placed on your behalf?
- Why the advertisement printed in The Herald failed to carry an imprint.

The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London EC1Y 8YZ

Tel: 020 7271 0500
Fax: 020 7271 0505
info@electoralcommission.org.uk
www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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Should you have any questions, or wish to discuss this matter in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleagues in our Edinburgh office. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] can be contacted on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Casework and Investigations Manager

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Received: 01/09/2014 10:20
To: Angus MacDonald; Mr Angus MacDonald
Subject: Registration and absent voting forms CCM:0256080

Dear Mr Macdonald

As a registered campaigner in the referendum on independence for Scotland you may have collected registration forms and absent vote application forms. The deadlines by which these forms have to arrive at each elector's local Electoral Registration Office are set out below:

- Electoral Registration Forms – must arrive with local Electoral Registration Office by midnight on Tuesday 2 September 2014.
- Postal, Proxy and Postal Proxy Application Forms – must arrive with local Electoral Registration Office by 5pm on Wednesday 3 September 2014.

However, Electoral Registration Offices need time to process applications and sort out, with the elector, any anomalies on the relevant form. The more time they have to do this before the deadlines, the less likely it is that any such anomalies will result in an elector being disenfranchised. Accordingly, we are asking that you pass registration forms and absent voting application forms to the relevant local Electoral Registration Office as soon as possible and do not leave this until right before before the deadlines.

Thank you in advance.

[REDACTED]
Referendum Officer
The Electoral Commission
Lothian Chambers
59-63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1RN
Tel: [REDACTED]

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----- Original Message -----

From: PEF Inbox

Received: 27/08/2014 14:22

Subject: FW: Reminder: Pre-poll 3 return due 28/08/2014

Dear Permitted Participant/Responsible Person,

Don't forget, the **deadline** for the third pre-poll donations and transactions returns is **tomorrow**. Remember:

- These are two separate returns.
- You only need to report any donations or loans received over £7,500 in value.
- You need to submit a "nil return" even if you have not received any reportable donations or loans.
- You can submit these returns using [PEF Online](#), and can email pef@electoralcommission.org.uk if you don't already have a PEF Online account.

If you have any questions, or need any help submitting your returns you can contact us on 020 7271 0616, or by emailing pef@electoralcommission.org.uk.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Compliance Officer

The Electoral Commission

3 Bunhill Row

London

EC1Y 8YZ

Tel: [REDACTED]

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

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 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: PEF Inbox

Sent: 22 August 2014 12:33

Subject: Reminder: Pre-poll 3 return due 28/08/2014

Dear Permitted Participant/Responsible Person

You can now submit Donation and Transaction reports covering the period 25 July to 21 August. If you are a newly registered campaigner, you must tell us about any donations to, or transactions entered into, by your organisation since 18 December 2013 that exceed the reporting threshold. The reports must be submitted to the Commission by **Thursday 28 August**, however you do not have to wait until then and we encourage you to complete these returns as soon as possible.

Why we are writing to you

The registered responsible person for a registered campaigner in the referendum on independence for Scotland, is required to submit both a donation and transaction report - even if you haven't received any donations or transactions. The next report is due by **Thursday 28 August**. This email explains what you need to do and when you must do it.

You should read our [guidance](#) to understand what donations and transactions are covered and what information you need to include:

[Overview of donations for referendum campaigners](#)

[Overview of transactions for referendum campaigners](#)

We do encourage you to use our interactive website, [PEF Online](#), to submit these reports. However, should you require paper forms for reporting, these can be found [here](#).

What do you need to do?

You must submit your reports to us that list any donations that you receive that are over £7,500.

You must also report to us any transactions over £7,500 that you enter into. A regulated transaction is loans of money, credit facilities such as credit cards and overdrafts, and securities or guarantees for your obligations to someone else. If you have not received any reportable donations or entered into any reportable transactions, then you must tell us by sending us a nil return for each reporting period.

When do you need to report?

You must submit pre-poll reports or nil reports by the following dates:

Reporting period in which donations are received or loans entered into	Deadline for pre-poll reports
25 July – 21 August	Thursday 28 August
22 August – 5 September	Friday 12 September

How do I submit a pre-poll return to the Commission?

We recommend that you complete and submit pre-poll reports online using our interactive website, [PEF Online](#). In order to use the system, the responsible person will need access to the participant's online account. If you do not have an account registered with the Commission, please email pef@electoralcommission.org.uk to request that an account be set up. If you are unable to use the online system you can [email](#), fax or post completed forms to the Commission.

Useful Information

We have produced user guides designed to help you use our online system. There are user guides for submitting nil donation and nil transaction returns:

- Creating and submitting a nil pre-poll donations return online
- [Creating and submitting a nil pre-poll transactions return online](#)

If you do have lots of donations to report, you can use an [XML file](#). Alternatively you can use the online system to record various donations and regulated transactions. If you require assistance with using the online facility, please call us and ask to speak to a member of the Compliance Team.

What happens if you do not submit on time?

It is a legal requirement to submit pre-poll reports on time. If you submit your report late, you may be subject to sanctions including a penalty of at least £200. Failure to submit a pre-poll report on time may also result in you being referred to the Commission's Enforcement Team in line with our [enforcement policy](#):

Please ensure that you are aware of these deadlines.

Can We Help?

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, or about submitting your pre-poll reports, please contact a member of the Commission's Compliance Team:

- [redacted] or [redacted] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk)
- [redacted] or [redacted] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk)

Alternatively you can contact our Party & Election finance advice line on 020 7271 0616 or email pef@electoralcommission.org.uk

Yours sincerely

[redacted]
Compliance Manager
Party and Election Finance
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London EC1Y 8YZ
Tel: [redacted]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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From: Angus MacDonald [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 August 2014 07:52
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Canvassers and follow up to meeting CCM:0216076

Thankyou. We were pleased to meet you and get your advice.
Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Angus MacDonald OBE,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)
Sent: 18 August 2014 16:31
To: Angus MacDonald
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Canvassers and follow up to meeting CCM:0216076

Dear Angus

Thanks for coming in to meet us and apologies for the delay in replying.

At the meeting we discussed the campaign rules in general. We also discussed the specific issue of evidence we had that suggested that Proud to be Scots-Delighted to be United were paying canvassers. As we explained the Scottish Independence Referendum Act 2013 is clear that where a person is paid for canvassing both the canvasser and those p[aying them commits an offence.

After meeting with you and reviewing the material we received from complainants we have decided to take no further action in this matter.

You also asked about paying [REDACTED].

This will be a matter for you but if you were paying him to canvass for you in the referendum that would, as you are aware, be a breach of the rules.

If you need any clarification do get in touch.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Senior Referendum Officer

The Electoral Commission
Lothian Chambers
59-63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1RN
Mob: [REDACTED]
Tel: [REDACTED]
Textphone: 18001 0131 225 0200
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 August 2014 11:30
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Angus MacDonald

Hi All

[REDACTED] and I met with Mr MacDonald and [REDACTED].

Just to recap we requested an urgent meeting with him after we obtained evidence that there was a potential breach in relation to paying canvassers. It was also clear that there was a general lack of awareness of the campaign rules. We have had to point out the rules on imprints (which he has dealt with) and his pre-poll report was late although this was because we had the wrong number for him.

Mr MacDonald stated that his campaign was largely him speaking at other people's dinners and village halls, distributing car stickers and selling T shirts. They are also producing banners which cost £75 to make and are selling at £100.

We went through all of the campaign rules.

On the canvassing issue [REDACTED] said that he wanted more volunteers besides him and [REDACTED] (who occasionally help), and set up 'volunteer for Proud to be Scots' for him and his friends. As no one had volunteered he offered to cover their transport costs, and told us that there was an error in the Facebook message and it was meant to say '£25 for transport'. However no one ever took him up on the offer and he claims no volunteers have been paid since they started the campaign in January. [REDACTED], who lives in Aberdeen and has helped out, has been reimbursed for his transport. We made them aware of the rules on paying canvassers. We informed them that we would need to consider what they had told us and that we would be in touch with them.

Mr MacDonald asked if he could pay [REDACTED] for his time. He clarified that [REDACTED] had been doing the campaign work on a voluntary basis. I said I would seek the advice of colleagues on this point. Views welcome on whether he can pay [REDACTED] for the work he has been doing or whether this falls under the same category as paying canvassers?

Let me know next steps.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Senior Referendum Officer
The Electoral Commission
Lothian Chambers
59-63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1RN
Mob: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 July 2014 14:54
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Phone call from Angus McDonald

After contacting Angus McDonald via email on the 3/7 offering him a meeting with the EC, I received a phone call from him on the 3/7. He told me that he did not believe a meeting would be necessary, as he had already gone through the rules with the EC London Office. He believed he understood the rules for campaigning, and that he was only expecting a single donation of 25 000 pounds, which he already had declared in his pre-poll report. I offered him that he could always contact us if he had any questions.

[REDACTED]
Referendum Officer
The Electoral Commission
Lothian Chambers
59-63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1RN
Tel: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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----- Original Message -----

From: ScotReferendum

Received: 08/08/2014 17:17

Subject: Notification of Appointment of Referendum Agents for the Referendum on Independence for Scotland - REMINDER CCM:0220171

Dear Responsible Person,

Further to my previous e-mail to you as shown below, I am writing to remind you that the deadline by which you must notify counting officers of the appointment of referendum agents is **noon on Thursday 14 August 2014.**

Please be aware that an **original hard copy** of the attached form must be provided to the counting officer by the deadline – an electronic copy alone is not sufficient.

Yours sincerely,


Senior Electoral Practice and Performance Officer
The Electoral Commission
Lothian Chambers
59-63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1RN
Tel: 
Mob: 
Fax: 
www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Dear Responsible Person,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Chief Counting Officer in your capacity as the named responsible person for a registered permitted participant in the referendum on independence for Scotland.

As you may be aware, each permitted participant is entitled to appoint a referendum agent for each of the 32 local counting areas, who will be entitled to do the following:

- Attend the receipt and opening of postal ballot papers and/or appoint postal ballot agents to do so on their behalf.

- Attend polling stations on polling day for the purpose of detecting personation and/or appoint polling agents to do so on their behalf.
- Attend the counting of votes and/or appoint counting agents to do so on their behalf.

To appoint a referendum agent for each local counting area, the responsible person must provide notification in writing to the counting officer for that area and I have attached a form for this purpose. An original hard copy of the form must be provided to the counting officer; a scanned copy sent by e-mail alone is not sufficient to satisfy this requirement, although you may send an electronic copy in addition to a hard copy if you wish.

The notification must be signed by the responsible person and **must be provided to the counting officer before noon on 14 August 2014**. After this time, it will not be possible for permitted participants to appoint referendum agents and, if no referendum agent has been appointed in any local counting area, the permitted participant in question will not be able to appoint postal ballot agents, polling agents or counting agents for that area.

It is possible for the attached notification form to be signed by someone other than the responsible person. However, any notification form completed in this manner **must** be accompanied by a written declaration from the responsible person, authorising the person who has signed the form to discharge their duties on their behalf.

You may appoint the same referendum agent for more than one local counting area and you can have the same referendum agent for all 32 local counting areas if you wish. However, you must still send a separate notification form to the counting officer in each counting area. The postal address for each counting officer is included on the attached contact details document and this is the address your forms should be sent to. Please **do not** send these forms to the Electoral Commission, as we will not be able to process them on your behalf.

If you have any questions about the notification process, please contact the Chief Counting Officer's team at [REDACTED]. If you have any questions about local arrangements, please contact the relevant Counting Officer using the details on the attached contact sheet.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Senior Electoral Practice and Performance Officer

The Electoral Commission
Lothian Chambers
59-63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1RN

Tel: [REDACTED]

Mob: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

----- Original Message -----

From: ScotReferendum

Received: 04/08/2014 12:21

Subject: Scottish Independence Referendum: Authorising Release of Contact Information to Counting Officers and Electoral Registration Officers CCM:0220164

Dear Responsible Person,

I am writing to you in your capacity as the named responsible person for a registered permitted participant in the referendum on independence for Scotland.

As we move closer to polling day, there are several aspects of the referendum process which may require you to contact Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Counting Officers (COs) and their respective teams. Likewise, EROs and COs may require to contact you. For example:

- EROs have been receiving requests from permitted participants for a copy of the register of local government electors. When these requests are not received from the nominated responsible person, the ERO may need to check that the request is genuine.
- COs may require to correspond with permitted participants in relation to arrangements for matters such as the appointment of referendum agents (further to my recent e-mail to you).

The contact information which is publicly displayed on the Electoral Commission's register of permitted participants is limited to the name of the responsible person and the registered postal address for the permitted participant; e-mail addresses and telephone numbers are not shown. For the purposes of administrative matters, such as those mentioned above, it would likely be beneficial to all parties if EROs and COs has access to full contact details for the responsible person.

For data protection reasons, the Commission cannot use certain information for any purpose other than that for which it was collected. With this in mind, I would be grateful if you could reply to this e-mail as soon as possible to confirm you are content for the Commission to release the following information to EROs, COs and their respective teams only:

- E-Mail address for the responsible person.
- Telephone number for the responsible person.

In order to receive this information, all EROs and COs will be required to confirm they will use this information solely for purposes in relation to the administration of the referendum on independence for Scotland and will manage the information appropriately in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

Please be aware that, without your authority, the Commission cannot release this information to EROs and COs. Accordingly, this may affect the ability of the EROs and COs to

deal with any correspondence from you, or sent on your behalf, in relation to the referendum.

If you have any queries with regard to this e-mail, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone on [REDACTED], or by e-mail at [REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Senior Electoral Practice and Performance Officer

The Electoral Commission

Lothian Chambers

59-63 George IV Bridge

Edinburgh EH1 1RN

Tel: [REDACTED]

Mob: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

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----- Original Message -----

From: Angus MacDonald

Received: 01/08/2014 10:05

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Pre-poll donation and transaction returns due 31 July - reminder

Thanks a lot, all done

[REDACTED]

Angus MacDonald OBE

[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From: Angus MacDonald

Received: 31/07/2014 21:34

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Pre-poll donation and transaction returns due 31 July - reminder

[REDACTED], I cannot open the link. No message from you on my mobile. I did my quarterly report in early July.....

I have a conf call at 8am until 9.30. might you call me afterwards. Will you send me a link again? apologies

[REDACTED]

Angus MacDonald OBE

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk]

Sent: 31 July 2014 17:44

To: Angus MacDonald

Subject: FW: Pre-poll donation and transaction returns due 31 July - reminder

Importance: High

Dear Mr MacDonald,

I have tried to contact you by telephone today a couple of times today regarding the outstanding pre-poll returns you are required to submit no later than today – Thursday 31 July.

You can submit the returns online, however if you are unable to use the system for any reason, please email me a scan of complete form or fax it to [REDACTED]

Form:-

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1644

As mentioned above, the deadline is today and the reports must be completed asap. If you do believe the reports have been submitted, please let me know.

Kind Regards,


Compliance Officer
Party and Election Finance

The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London EC1Y 8YZ

Tel: 

Fax: 

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: PEF Inbox

Sent: 28 July 2014 18:14

Subject: Pre-poll donation and transaction returns due 31 July - reminder

Importance: High

Dear Permitted Participant/Responsible Person

Why we are writing to you

The registered responsible person for a registered campaigner in the referendum on independence for Scotland, is required to submit both a donation and transaction report - even if you haven't received any donations or transactions. The next report is due by **Thursday 31 July**. This letter explains what you need to do and when you must do it.

You should read our [guidance](#) to understand what donations and transactions are covered and what information you need to include:

[Overview of donations for referendum campaigners](#)

[Overview of transactions for referendum campaigners](#)

We do encourage you to use our interactive website, [PEF Online](#), to submit these reports. However, should you require paper forms for reporting, these can be found [here](#).

What do you need to do?

You must submit your reports to us that list any donations that you receive that are over £7,500.

You must also report to us any transactions over £7,500 that you enter into. A regulated transaction is loans of money, credit facilities such as credit cards and overdrafts, and securities or guarantees for your obligations to someone else. If you have not received any reportable donations or entered into any reportable transactions, then you must tell us by sending us a nil return for each reporting period.

When do you need to report?

You must submit pre-poll reports or nil reports by the following dates:

Reporting period in which donations are received or loans entered into	Deadline for pre-poll reports
18 December 2013 – 26 June 2014	Thursday 3 July
27 June – 24 July	Thursday 31 July
25 July – 21 August	Thursday 28 August
22 August – 5 September	Friday 12 September

How do I submit a pre-poll return to the Commission?

We recommend that you complete and submit pre-poll reports online using our interactive website, [PEF Online](#). In order to use the system, the responsible person will need access to the participant's online account. If you do not have an account registered with the Commission, please email pef@electoralcommission.org.uk to request that an account be set up. If you are unable to use the online system you can [email](#), fax or post completed forms to the Commission.

Useful Information

We have produced user guides designed to help you use our online system. There are user guides for submitting nil donation and nil transaction returns:

- Creating and submitting a nil pre-poll donations return online
- [Creating and submitting a nil pre-poll transactions return online](#)

If you do have lots of donations to report, you can use an [XML file](#). Alternatively you can use the online system to record various donations and regulated transactions. If you require assistance with using the online facility, please call us and ask to speak to a member of the Compliance Team.

What happens if you do not submit on time?

It is a legal requirement to submit pre-poll reports on time. If you submit your report late, you may be subject to sanctions including a penalty of at least £200. Failure to submit a pre-poll report on time may also result in you being referred to the Commission's Enforcement Team in line with our [enforcement policy](#):

Please ensure that you are aware of these deadlines.

Can We Help?

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, or about submitting your pre-poll reports, please contact a member of the Commission's Compliance Team:

- [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)
- [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)

Alternatively you can contact our Party & Election finance advice line on 020 7271 0616 or email pef@electoralcommission.org.uk

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Compliance Manager
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ
Tel: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

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 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Angus MacDonald [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 July 2014 07:18
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: responsible person CCM:0256038

[REDACTED] this is fine. we will come up with a satisfactory response

Angus MacDonald OBE
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)]
Sent: 23 July 2014 10:50
To: Angus MacDonald
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: responsible person CCM:0256038

Dear Mr MacDonald

Thanks for your email regarding imprints. My colleague [REDACTED] has asked me to respond.

As you're aware the law requires all election material to have an imprint. This is to ensure that the public know who has produced the material and where they can be contacted. In regards to material on a website, the law requires that election material has:

- The name and address of the promoter of the material, and
- The name and address of any person on behalf of whom the material is being published (and who is not the promoter)

You have confirmed that you are worried about having your personal home address published on the website, particularly because of safety reasons. If you do not wish to have your home address printed, I would suggest a PO Box or business address provided that you can be reached at that address. If you could let me know when you have dealt with the imprint issue based on this advice that would be helpful.

Best regards

[REDACTED]
Referendum Officer
The Electoral Commission
Lothian Chambers
59-63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1RN
Tel: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Angus MacDonald [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 July 2014 06:50
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: responsible person

[REDACTED]
Hi there,
I have had conversations with the Electoral Commission in London about this.
My address is also that of my wife and four children. I am keen to minimise the number of people who can access my personal address as there seem to be a large number of really extreme cranks (particularly on the nationalist side). As can be evidenced by the online treatment of JK Rowling and others.
I do not see why my address needs to be available to them, and of course I am happy for it to be available to you.....
What are the implications of me not making it available?
Is A Salmonds home address available to the masses?

Angus MacDonald OBE
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 July 2014 16:03
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Angus MacDonald
Subject: RE: Regarding your banner for the Scottish Independence Referendum

Dear [REDACTED],

Sorry for the delay in replying, unfortunately I have been away from my computer.

I have copied in [REDACTED], to whom our little campaign is registered as I understand he has talked of this with the electoral office.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

www.proudtobescots.co.uk

From: [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)

To: [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, 16 Jul 2014 14:31:45 +0100

Subject: RE: Regarding your banner for the Scottish Independence Referendum

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for getting back to me.

If your banners only have the website printed on them then your website will need to have an 'imprint' – the name and address of the promoter and the organisation on whose behalf it has been produced. (see page 13 in our 'Do's and Don'ts' guidance: http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0020/16443/2/to-ris-ref-dos-and-donts.pdf). Your t-shirts and car stickers do not need imprints as they are classified as personal items.

If you have any further questions please let me know

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Referendum Officer

The Electoral Commission

Lothian Chambers

59-63 George IV Bridge

Edinburgh EH1 1RN

Tel: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 July 2014 13:25
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Regarding your banner for the Scottish Independence Referendum

Dear [REDACTED]

Unfortunately, everything has already been printed without an imprint, and only the website on the banners.

Is it sufficient to provide an address on the website? Our campaign is being run out of various private flats and has no offices or particular address to call its own.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)
To: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, 9 Jul 2014 16:23:35 +0100
Subject: Regarding your banner for the Scottish Independence Referendum

Dear [REDACTED]

It has been brought to our attention that the banner you have produced and are selling in relation to the referendum does not contain an "imprint" <http://www.proudtobescots.co.uk/#!/projects/c21kz>

The Scottish Independence Act 2013 requires that all referendum related material published in the referendum period requires an "imprint" – the name and address of the printer and promoter and the name and address of any person on whose behalf it is being published (if it's not the promoter).

Please see page 12 of our "Do's and Don'ts" guidance: http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/16443/2/to-ris-ref-dos-and-donts.pdf, which will help you to comply with legislative requirements for any future publications between now and September 18th.

If you require any more information please get in touch.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Referendum Officer
The Electoral Commission
Lothian Chambers
59-63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1RN

Tel: [REDACTED]

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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----- Original Message -----

From: ScotReferendum

Received: 18/07/2014 17:26

Subject: Notification of Appointment of Referendum Agents for the Referendum on Independence for Scotland - CORRECTION CCM:0220150

Dear Responsible Person,

I am writing to correct an error contained in my e-mail to you of 17 July 2014 (attached).

My e-mail incorrectly stated that referendum agents, or postal ballot agents appointed by referendum agents, could attend the issue of postal ballot papers. In fact, only counting officers, their staff, Electoral Commission representatives and accredited observers may attend the issue of postal ballot papers as per Schedule 2, Paragraph 20(1) of the Scottish Independence Referendum Act 2013. However, referendum agents, or postal ballot agents appointed by referendum agents, may attend the receipt and opening of postal ballot papers.

Please accept my apologies for any confusion caused by the error in my original e-mail.

Yours sincerely,


Senior Electoral Practice and Performance Officer

The Electoral Commission

Lothian Chambers

59-63 George IV Bridge

Edinburgh EH1 1RN

Tel: 

Mob: 

Fax: 

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: ScotReferendum

Sent: 17 July 2014 18:05

Subject: Notification of Appointment of Referendum Agents for the Referendum on Independence for Scotland CCM:0220149

Dear Responsible Person,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Chief Counting Officer in your capacity as the named responsible person for a registered permitted participant in the referendum on independence for Scotland.

As you may be aware, each permitted participant is entitled to appoint a referendum agent for each of the 32 local counting areas, who will be entitled to do the following:

- Attend the issue, receipt and opening of postal ballot papers and/or appoint postal ballot agents to do so on their behalf.
- Attend polling stations on polling day for the purpose of detecting personation and/or appoint polling agents to do so on their behalf.
- Attend the counting of votes and/or appoint counting agents to do so on their behalf.

To appoint a referendum agent for each local counting area, the responsible person must provide notification in writing to the counting officer for that area and I have attached a form for this purpose. An original hard copy of the form must be provided to the counting officer; a scanned copy sent by e-mail alone is not sufficient to satisfy this requirement, although you may send an electronic copy in addition to a hard copy if you wish.

The notification must be signed by the responsible person and **must be provided to the counting officer before noon on 14 August 2014**. After this time, it will not be possible for permitted participants to appoint referendum agents and, if no referendum agent has been appointed in any local counting area, the permitted participant in question will not be able to appoint postal ballot agents, polling agents or counting agents for that area.

It is possible for the attached notification form to be signed by someone other than the responsible person. However, any notification form completed in this manner **must** be accompanied by a written declaration from the responsible person, authorising the person who has signed the form to discharge their duties on their behalf.

You may appoint the same referendum agent for more than one local counting area and you can have the same referendum agent for all 32 local counting areas if you wish. However, you must still send a separate notification form to the counting officer in each counting area. The postal address for each counting officer is included on the attached contact details document and this is the address your forms should be sent to. Please **do not** send these forms to the Electoral Commission, as we will not be able to process them on your behalf.

If you have any questions about the notification process, please contact the Chief Counting Officer's team at ccof@ec.gov.uk. If you have any questions about local arrangements, please contact the relevant Counting Officer using the details on the attached contact sheet.

Yours sincerely,



Senior Electoral Practice and Performance Officer

The Electoral Commission
Lothian Chambers
59-63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1RN

Tel: [REDACTED]

Mob: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Received: 08/07/2014 12:00

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: I refer to my earlier e-mail concerning the publication of the pre-poll donations and loans report at 12noon.

I earlier sent you a copy of the embargoed press release.

Please now find attached a copy of the summary document of donations and loans published at 12noon today.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Referendum Officer

The Electoral Commission

Lothian Chambers

59-63 George IV Bridge

Edinburgh EH1 1RN

Tel: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Donations and loans received by campaigners at the referendum on independence for Scotland (pre-poll reporting: 18 December 2013 to 26 June 2014)

The Scottish Independence Referendum Act 2013 requires registered campaigners (that are not political parties) to complete four pre-poll reports setting out what donations and loans over £7,500 they have received between commencement of the Act (18 December 2013) and 5 September 2014.

Reporting period	Deadline for pre-poll reports	Date Electoral Commission will publish donations
18 December 2013 to 26 June 2014	Thursday 3 July	Tuesday 8 July
27 June to 24 July	Thursday 31 July	Tuesday 5 August
25 July to 21 August	Thursday 28 August	Tuesday 2 September
22 August to 5 September	Friday 12 September	Monday 15 September

This document is a summary of donations and borrowing reported to us in the first reporting period, 18 December 2013 to 26 June 2014.

After the referendum has taken place, registered campaigners will have to report:

- all donations and loans over £7,500 that they accepted
- their campaign spending during the referendum period (30 May 2014 up to and including polling day, 18 September 2014 - the period where campaigners are limited in how much they can spend)

Please see our media handbook for more information:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/166556/Scottish-Independence-Referendum-media-handbook.pdf

Donations summary

Donations of over £7,500 received by registered campaigners received in the reporting period 18 Dec 2013 to 26 June 2014

Outcome: Yes

Campaigner	Total
Business for Scotland Ltd	£199,120
Christians for Independence	£100,000
Farming 4 Yes	£0
Generation Yes	£0
Labour for Independence	£0
National Collective (Artists and Creatives for Independence Limited)	£0
Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament	£0
Scottish Independence Convention	£0
Wings Over Scotland	£0
Women for Independence	£0
Yes Scotland Limited	£1,160,000

Outcome: No

Campaigner	Total
Better Together 2012 Ltd	£2,406,475
Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland	£0
Mr Alistair McConnachie	£0
Mr Angus MacDonald	£25,000
No Borders Campaign	£75,000
Stirlingshire For No Thanks	£0
Union of Shop, Distributive & Allied Workers (USDAW)	£0
WFS2014 Ltd	£0

Loans summary

Loans and credit facilities of over £7,500 entered into by registered campaigners received in the reporting period 18 Dec 2013 to 26 June 2014

Campaigner	Outcome	Type	Total
Business for Scotland Ltd	Yes	Loan	£15,000
Yes Scotland Limited	Yes	Credit facility	£10,000

Donations and loans in detail

Donations received and loans entered into of over £7,500 during the reporting period 18 Dec 2013 to 26 June 2014

Business for Scotland Ltd (Outcome: Yes)

Donor	Status	Nature of Donation	Amount or value	Date received
Mr Anthony Banks	Individual	Cash	£15,000	31/12/2013
Mr Brian Souter	Individual	Cash	£100,000	23/05/2014
Mr Graeme McCormick	Individual	Cash	£14,000	12/06/2014
Mr Sandy Adam	Individual	Cash	£15,000	27/12/2013
Mr Willie Wilson	Individual	Cash	£34,000	28/03/2014
Mr Willie Wilson	Individual	Cash	£8,000	06/02/2014
Springfield Real Estate Mngt Ltd	Company	Non Cash	£13,120	01/02/2014

Lender	Status	Loan amount	Start date	End date
Mr Anthony Banks	Individual	£15,000	03/04/2014	04/04/2014

Christians for Independence (Outcome: Yes)

Donor	Status	Nature of donation	Amount or value	Date received
Sir Brian Souter	Individual	Cash	£100,000	13/01/2014

Yes Scotland Limited (Outcome: Yes)

Donor	Status	Nature of donation	Amount or value	Date received
Mr Colin Weir	Individual	Cash	£500,000	20/02/2014
Mrs Christine Weir	Individual	Cash	£500,000	20/02/2014
Mr Dan Macdonald	Individual	Cash	£50,000	06/03/2014
Mr Randal Foggie	Individual	Cash	£50,000	03/04/2014
Mr Mark Shaw	Individual	Cash	£50,000	07/05/2014
Mr Walt Hopkins	Individual	Cash	£10,000	30/05/2014
Lender	Status	Credit facility	Start date	End date
The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC	Company	£10,000	20/11/2013	

Better Together 2012 Ltd (Outcome: No)

Donor	Status	Nature of donation	Amount or value	Date received
Ardchattan Hydro Limited	Company	Cash	£10,000	01/05/2014
Ardverkie Estate Limited	Company	Cash	£10,000	06/01/2014
Balmoral Comtec Limited	Company	Cash	£26,000	24/03/2014
Balmoral Comtec Limited	Company	Cash	£20,000	29/05/2014
Balmoral Comtec Limited	Company	Cash	£12,000	12/01/2014
Benalla Limited	Company	Cash	£10,000	29/04/2014
Broadland Properties Ltd	Company	Cash	£10,000	31/03/2014
Buccleuch Estates, Ltd. (The)	Company	Cash	£25,000	12/06/2014
Earl Ian Seafeld	Individual	Cash	£100,000	07/02/2014
Flowidea Limited	Company	Cash	£50,000	11/02/2014
Flowidea Limited	Company	Cash	£50,000	15/05/2014
Glenglass Hydro Limited	Company	Cash	£10,000	24/04/2014
Gretna Green Ltd	Company	Cash	£10,000	06/05/2014
MacDougall Arts Limited	Company	Cash	£8,000	24/06/2014

MacTaggart, Scott & Company Limited	Company	Cash	£15,000	31/03/2014
Mr Alistair Jack	Individual	Cash	£20,000	18/02/2014
Mr Andrew Fraser	Individual	Cash	£100,000	25/02/2014
Mr Bruno Schroder	Individual	Cash	£30,000	26/03/2014
Mr Charles Maclean	Individual	Cash	£10,500	15/04/2014
Mr Christopher Sansom	Individual	Cash	£150,000	14/03/2014
Mr Christopher Sansom	Individual	Cash	£50,000	19/06/2014
Mr David Stevenson	Individual	Cash	£9,500	20/03/2014
Mr Edward Percy Weatherall	Individual	Cash	£50,000	01/04/2014
Mr Gerald Elliot	Individual	Cash	£20,000	27/01/2014
Mr Gerald Elliot	Individual	Cash	£20,000	02/06/2014
Mr Hugh Campbell Adamson	Individual	Cash	£10,475	10/03/2014
Mr Ivor Dunbar	Individual	Cash	£50,000	01/04/2014
Mr Kevan Macdonald	Individual	Cash	£20,000	03/06/2014
Mr Randall Nicol	Individual	Cash	£10,000	18/02/2014
Ms Joanne Murray	Individual	Cash	£1,000,000	10/06/2014
Orion Engineering Services Limited	Company	Cash	£50,000	15/04/2014
Peak Scientific Holdings Limited	Company	Cash	£10,000	17/06/2014
Rain Dance Investments Ltd	Company	Cash	£200,000	07/03/2014
Reidhaven Trust Estate	Other	Cash	£20,000	17/03/2014
Sir David Garrard	Individual	Cash	£25,000	02/06/2014
Teasses Capital Limited	Company	Cash	£10,000	06/05/2014
Western United Investment Company Limited	Company	Cash	£40,000	15/04/2014
William Grant & Sons Ltd	Company	Cash	£135,000	22/05/2014

Mr Angus MacDonald (Outcome: No)

Donor	Status	Nature of donation	Amount or value	Date received
William Grant and Sons Holding Ltd	Company	Cash	£25,000	23/05/2014

No Borders Campaign (Outcome: No)

Donor	Status	Nature of donation	Amount or value	Date received
Stalbury Trustees	Company	Cash	£50,000	04/04/2014
William Grant & Sons Ltd	Company	Cash	£25,000	28/05/2014

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Received: 08/07/2014 11:30
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: First pre-poll donations and loans report at Scottish Independence Referendum to be published

On **Tuesday 8 July 2014 at 12pm**, the Electoral Commission will publish details of donations to, and borrowing by, registered campaigners at the Scottish Independence Referendum.

The Commission will issue a press release and publish the information on our website – www.electoralcommission.org.uk – at 12pm. An embargoed copy of the press release is attached. Details of all individual donors however will not be made public until 12pm and I will send a follow-up email with details of individual donations over £7,500 at that time.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Referendum Officer
The Electoral Commission
Lothian Chambers
59-63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1RN
Tel: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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Press Release

Tuesday 8 July 2014

First pre-poll donations and loans report at Scottish Independence Referendum published

Almost £4 million (£3,965,595) in donations to registered campaigners at the Scottish Independence Referendum have been reported to the Electoral Commission. This is the first time voters anywhere in the UK will have had access to such information before a referendum.

Under the Scottish Independence Referendum Act, registered campaigners must complete four pre-poll reports setting out what donations and loans they have received over £7,500 between commencement of the Act (18 December 2013) and 5 September 2014.

The first pre-poll report covers the period from 18 December 2013 to 26 June 2014. There were six registered campaigners with reportable donations.

Outcome: Yes

- Business for Scotland Ltd - £199,120
- Christians for Independence - £100,000
- Yes Scotland Limited (designated lead campaigner) - £1,160,000

Outcome: No

- Better Together 2012 Ltd (designated lead campaigner) – £2,406,475
- Mr Angus MacDonald - £25,000
- No Borders Campaign - £75,000

Thirteen registered campaigners submitted a declaration that they had no reportable donations. All registered campaigners submitted their information on time.

The value of loans to registered campaigners as at 26 June 2014 stood at £25,000.

Registered campaigners are limited as to how much they can spend during the formal 'referendum period' (which began on 30 May and runs until the close of poll on 18 September). Designated lead campaigners have a maximum spending limit of £1.5 million each. Other registered campaigners have a spending limit of £150,000.

Political parties are not required to submit pre-poll donation and loans reports to the Electoral Commission. The spending limits for political parties represented in the Scottish Parliament are:

Scottish National Party	£1,344,000
Scottish Labour Party	£831,000
Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party	£399,000
Scottish Liberal Democrats	£204,000
Scottish Green Party	£150,000

Ends

For further information contact:

██████████ in the Electoral Commission press office on ██████████ or

██████████
Out of office hours ██████████

Notes to editors

1. The Electoral Commission is an independent body set up by the UK Parliament. Our aim is integrity and public confidence in the UK's democratic process. We regulate party and election finance and set standards for well-run elections and are responsible for the conduct and regulation of referendums held under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act (2000). The Scottish Independence Referendum Act 2013 gave the Commission a number of responsibilities for the Scottish independence referendum for which we report directly to the Scottish Parliament.
2. The date for pre-poll donations and loans publications are:

Reporting period	Deadline for pre-poll reports	Date Electoral Commission will publish donations
18 December 2013 – 26 June 2014	Thursday 3 July	Tuesday 8 July
27 June – 24 July	Thursday 31 July	Tuesday 5 August
25 July – 21 August	Thursday 28 August	Tuesday 2 September
22 August – 5 September	Friday 12 September	Monday 15 September

3. There were 26 registered campaigners with the Electoral Commission as at 3 July 2014. Seven registered campaigners were political parties and report their donations and loans to the Electoral Commission on a quarterly basis. The next publication of quarterly donations to political parties will be on 13 August 2014. A full list of registered campaigners can be seen [here](#).
4. For more information about the rules regarding donations and loans at the Scottish Independence Referendum, see our media handbook [here](#).
5. The figures reported by campaigners have been rounded to the nearest £. Exact figures are available on our website.

----- Original Message -----

From: Angus MacDonald
Received: 02/07/2014 07:16
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Transaction report - please submit by 8 July

[REDACTED] I will have to do the transaction but tomorrow. It will be nil. Hope this is acceptable
Angus

Sent from my iPhone

On 1 Jul 2014, at 17:35, [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)> wrote:

Dear Mr MacDonald,

In case you get stuck, please see below a link to the user guide for submitting a nil transaction return:-

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/169137/ris-ref-pefo-nil-loan-guidance.pdf

If you do require further clarification on what constitutes a transaction, please refer to the below guidance document:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/164392/to-ris-ref-loans.pdf

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]
Compliance Officer
Party and Election Finance
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London EC1Y 8YZ
Tel: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 July 2014 17:08
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Transaction report - please submit by 8 July

Dear Mr MacDonald.

Thank you for submitting a donations return for pre-poll 1, please note that you are also required to complete a transaction return by 3 July.

The return can be completed online, if you have not entered into any reportable transactions (in excess of £7,500), you are required to complete a nil return.

Further information on what is considered a transaction can be found here:-

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/164392/to-ris-ref-loans.pdf

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Kind Regards,


Compliance Officer
Party and Election Finance
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London EC1Y 8YZ
Tel: 
Fax: 
www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Received: 23/06/2014 12:26
To: Angus MacDonald; Mr Angus MacDonald
Subject: FOI 63/14

Mr Angus MacDonald

FOI 63/14

23/06/2014

Dear Mr MacDonald

I am writing to you in connection with a request for information received by The Electoral Commission which is being considered under Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. Part of the information requested was supplied by you. The Electoral Commission have been requested to provide your application to register as a permitted participant in the referendum on independence for Scotland and all associated correspondence relating to the registration.

The FOI Act requires the Commission to disclose information in response to a request unless an exemption applies and we do not consider that any exemptions apply in this case. We have redacted the following personal information in the application; personal email addresses, mobile telephone numbers, signatures. Please note that your personal address will be released as this is the address that you provided on registration. It is also the same address that appears on our public register.

In light of the fact that you provided this information to us, we are informing you of this request. If you wish to notify us of any particular issues or considerations that you consider relevant to the question of disclosure of this information, please let me have written details of how, in your view, disclosure of the information would be harmful by Friday 27 June 2014. If we do not hear from you we will presume that you are happy for the Electoral Commission to disclose the information described above.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Senior Adviser
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London EC1Y 8YZ
Tel: [REDACTED]
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
[REDACTED][@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Received: 03/06/2014 14:07
To: Angus MacDonald; Mr Angus MacDonald
Subject: Registration as a permitted participant

Dear Angus

I have attached a letter confirming that you have been registered as a campaigner in the referendum on independence for Scotland.

Your details are now on our website. The letter has a link to the register for information.

Also please note our offer to meet with you to go over the campaign rules. Let me know when might be suitable.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Senior Referendum Officer

The Electoral Commission

Lothian Chambers

59-63 George IV Bridge

Edinburgh EH1 1RN

Mob: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Textphone: 18001 0131 225 0200

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

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Mr Angus MacDonald
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

3 June 2014

Dear Mr MacDonald

**Confirmation of referendum campaigner status
Referendum on independence for Scotland – 18 September 2014**

Thank you for your application to be registered as a referendum campaigner in the referendum on independence for Scotland to be held on 18 September 2014.

I am pleased to tell you that your application has been accepted and you have been added to our register of campaigners.

We have registered you on the basis of what you told us. If any information should change you should let us know immediately.

Your details as they appear on the register are set out below. It is important that you check them immediately and notify us of any errors, so that they can be amended as soon as possible. If we have not heard from you within 10 days of the date of this letter we will assume that the details are correct. You can view the register here:

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/find-information-by-subject/elections-and-referendums/upcoming-elections-and-referendums/scottish-referendum/register-of-campaigners-at-the-scottish-independence-referendum>

Permitted participant: Mr Angus MacDonald
Responsible person: Mr Angus MacDonald
Registered Address: [REDACTED]

The Electoral Commission
Lothian Chambers
59–63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1RN

Tel: 0131 225 0200
Fax: 0131 225 0205
infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk
www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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An independent body established by Act of the UK Parliament



Guidance for Campaigners

As a campaigner, there are rules, set out in the Scottish Independence Referendum Act 2013 that you must follow on:

- donations
- spending
- reporting to the Electoral Commission.

We have produced a series of guidance documents to help you comply with the campaign rules. These are available from:

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/party-or-campaigner/campaigners-in-referendums>

Requesting electoral registration documents

As a registered campaigner in the referendum you are entitled to request the electoral registration documents set out below:

- The full latest version of the register of local government electors and any notice setting out an alteration to that register
- The postal voters list
- The list of proxies
- The proxy postal voters list

These can be requested by submitting a form to the relevant Electoral Registration Officer (ERO). The form can be requested directly from them or be downloaded from

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/data/assets/word_doc/0003/164469/form-ris-request.docx

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/164468/form-ris-request.pdf

Once completed it should be submitted to relevant ERO. The contact details for ERO's can be found here:

<http://www.saa.gov.uk/saacontacts.php>

Meeting

We are offering all of those individuals and organisations who register with us a meeting to go through the guidance in detail and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to take this opportunity please contact me on 0131 225 0202 or email us at scotreferendum@electoralcommission.org.uk

Yours sincerely



Senior Referendum Officer



From: [REDACTED]
Received: 22/05/2014 16:34
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Registration

Hi there

Individual registration. I called him to verify his slightly unclear email address and confirm he was declaring for No.

Let me know if anything else is needed.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Senior Referendum Officer

The Electoral Commission

Lothian Chambers

59-63 George IV Bridge

Edinburgh EH1 1RN

Mob: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Textphone: 18001 0131 225 0200

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Electoral Commission use:

RECEIVED
21 MAY 2014

The
Electoral
Commission

Application to register as a campaigner: Referendum on independence for Scotland 2014

Section 1 – Details of the referendum outcome

Outcome
you intend to
campaign for

~~Yes~~ &

No

✓

Section 2 – Details of the individual or organisation applying for registration

Name of
individual or
organisation

AUGUS MACDONALD

✓

Address

[REDACTED]

✓

Town

[REDACTED]

Postcode

[REDACTED]

✓

Telephone
number

[REDACTED]

✓

Email
address

[REDACTED]

Section 3 – Status

Individual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Go straight to section 5 – the declaration
Registered political party	<input type="checkbox"/>	Go straight to section 5 – the declaration
Other organisations	Tick the appropriate box for your organisation and go to section 4 – the details of your responsible person	
Minor political party	<input type="checkbox"/>	Limited liability partnership <input type="checkbox"/>
Building society	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friendly society <input type="checkbox"/>
Trade union	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unincorporated association <input type="checkbox"/>
Company	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Company registration number (if applicable)	<input type="text"/>	

Section 4 – Notification of the responsible person for your organisation

Title	<input type="text"/>	First Name(s)	<input type="text"/>
Surname	<input type="text"/>		
Address	<input type="text"/>		
Town	<input type="text"/>	Postcode	<input type="text"/>
Telephone number	<input type="text"/>		
Email address	<input type="text"/>		

Section 5 – Declaration and signatures

I hereby give notification to the Electoral Commission that the individual, or organisation, named here wishes to register as a campaigner and become a permitted participant for the purposes of schedule 4 to the Scottish Independence Referendum Act 2013.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information I have provided on this form is true and that: (tick the appropriate box below):

I am the named individual, or ✓
We are the responsible officers of the above-named political party, or
I am the secretary, or acting in similar capacity as secretary of the above-named organisation.

Signed ✓

Name ✓

Position held Date

Signed

Name

Position held Date

For Electoral Commission use

Date of receipt

Checked by

Date entered in database

File reference number