From: FOI
Sent: 21 November 2024 10:15
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI 145-24 - Response

Categories: Transferred to SharePoint

Dear [redacted]

Our Ref: FOI 145-24

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 15 October 2024.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and has done so within the statutory timeframe.

Your request is shown below followed by our response.

You have asked for the following information:

I am writing to submit a Freedom of Information request on behalf of the Party, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I kindly request the following information:

Item 1: Conservative Party Constitution Change (January 2021)
We understand that the Conservative Party made substantive changes to its constitution in January 2021, which affected the party's structure and may have led to changes in its financial scheme. We would like to request the following:

a) All correspondence to/from the Commission related to these changes.
b) Any change notes related to these changes.
c)) Copies of the financial scheme before and after these changes.
d) Any assessment of the constitution and/or financial scheme carried out by the Commission, either before or after notification under Section 32(3) or under Section 26(7) of PPERA.

Item 2: Plaid Cymru Constitution Change (2014)
We believe that Plaid Cymru made significant changes to its constitution and financial scheme around 2014. The 2011 constitution was 189 pages, including a list of accounting units, under the heading "2.3 Financial Standing Orders and Financial Scheme." The 2014 version is only 18 pages, has no such section, and appears to centralise financial control, while the 2023 version is 20 pages. We would like to request the following:

a) All correspondence to/from the Commission related to these changes.
b) Any change notes related to these changes.
c) Copies of the financial scheme before and after these changes.
d) Any assessment of the constitution and/or financial scheme carried out by the Commission, either before or after notification under Section 32(3) or under Section 26(7) of PPERA.

Item 3: Brexit Party to Reform UK Constitution Change (2021)

We understand that when the "Brexit Party" registered in 2019, it used the model financial scheme and a constitution derived from or similar to UKIP's (released under FOI reference 030-19). The party later changed its name to "Reform UK" in January 2021 and implemented a new constitution around the same time (released under FOI reference 125-21) and continued using the model financial scheme under its new name (released under FOI reference 094-22). We would like to request the following:

a) All correspondence to/from the Commission related to these changes.
b) Any change notes related to this change.
c) Any assessment of the constitution and/or financial scheme carried out by the Commission, either before or after notification under Section 32(3) or under Section 26(7) of PPERA.

Item 4: Reform UK Constitution Changes (2024)
We are aware of the widely publicised constitutional changes to be made by Reform UK in 2024, but are unaware how far into the process they have progressed. We request:

a) All correspondence to/from the Commission related to these changes (We understand that it is possible no such information exists yet, and we may have to request this information at a later date if necessary).

Clarification:

'Change notes' are to be understood in the following context:

To clarify, by change notes, I am referring to any records, memos, meeting minutes, or documents that explain or provide the rationale behind the changes made to the constitution or financial scheme, and which may not already be captured by the term "correspondence." We issued a change note when we altered our own constitution to prevent any changes being misconstrued.

This request also accounts for the potential interpretation of PPERA Section 32(3), which states: "A notification under this section must also give particulars of any change occurring in the party's constitution (within the meaning of section 26) since the relevant time." This could be understood as requiring a notification of the specific change (i.e., a change note) rather than just an updated version of the document that was changed.

The documentation relating to your request is made available through Objective Connect and an explanation on how to retrieve these will be displayed bellow our response.

Our response is as follows:

We hold some of the information you have requested.

In relation to item 1, we hold: correspondence to and from the Commission relating to the Conservative Party's constitution changes in January 2021; a copy of the financial scheme after these changes; and a copy of the assessment of the updated constitution and financial scheme. Having searched our records, we do not hold any change notes related to these changes, or any copies of the financial scheme before these changes.

In relation to item 2, we hold a copy of Plaid Cymru's financial scheme. Having searched our records, we do not hold any correspondence relating to the constitution changes referenced in the request, any change notes relating to this change, or any assessment of the constitution and/or financial scheme carried out by the Commission, either before or after notification.

In relation to item 3, we hold correspondence to and from the Commission relating to Reform UK's constitution changes in 2021, and an assessment of Reform UK's constitution and financial scheme submitted at that time. We do not hold any change notes related to Reform UK's constitution changes in 2021.

In relation to item 4, we hold correspondence to and from the Commission relating to Reform UK's proposed constitution changes in 2024.

You will notice that certain personal details have been redacted from the documents we are releasing. Section 40(2) 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 contained in the requested information falls within the description of personal data as defined by the DPA because the information relates directly to an identifiable living individual. This includes names and contact details of individuals in some instances. The individuals in some cases are junior staff members and they would not reasonably expect their information to be released.

To access these documents, you will need to use our secure document-sharing system, Objective Connect. You will receive an 'Invitation to Objective Connect Email Notification' (sent to the inbox of [redacted]). This notification will contain a link to enable you to start accessing your information. Please find below details on how to access the specific area we have set up for your documents.

1. Click on the link in the email.
2. You will be prompted to set up your username and password. Your username will be your email address, and your password can be whatever you like.
3. With your username and password, enter both details at the login screen and click 'login'.
4. You will now see your personal page, which will show the Share 'FOI 145-24'.
5. By clicking on the name of the share, you will find your documents.
6. You may view any of these documents.
7. In addition, you may download a copy to your personal computer by selecting the 'download' option and then 'save'.

This service will be closed one month from our response date, this is **23 December 2024 at 5pm**.

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 Team
FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST PARTY

CONSTITUTION AND FINANCIAL SCHEME

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Decision and Approval Board comments

Applicant party name: Conservative and Unionist Party

Application type: Amended constitution

Relevant register: GB (England, Scotland and Wales) NI

Application details and recommendation	**Decision and Approval Board comments**
Constitution (**A**) Financial Scheme – Party based in GB (**R**) Financial Scheme – Party based in NI (**A**)	**Decision (please add initials and date):** [redacted] – 22/12/21 – I approve the constitution, and the NI financial scheme. Regarding the GB financial scheme, there is an extent to which we can assume that unless a grouping is explicitly noted as an AU, it is part of the central party and falls under the duties of the registered treasurer. However, as noted by the Financial Reporting Manager, this appears inconsistent with a statement in the scheme that 'affiliated organisations' are considered AUs. The issue is which groupings are 'affiliated' and which are not. In accordance with PPERA we should write to the party requesting that they amend the GB financial scheme to clarify the status of certain party groupings, as recommended below. They do not need to list each one in my view, but could alternatively make clear which are AUs and thereby confirm all others are part of the central party for finance purposes. We should note the need for some updates generally to terminology, but as noted in the assessment, this is not part of any formal request for change.

Recommendation of Registration Team member

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

Constitution	Link	**A**	Meets the requirements of PPERA
Financial Scheme	Link	**R**	Please note that under s26(5 and 6), where a party submits a scheme to us, we must either approve the scheme or give the party notice to amend the scheme. We must specify those amendments. I have suggested one main amendment which must be addressed and some minor amendments. The party must revise the scheme to make clear that 'affiliated organisations' mentioned in the constitution will be under the control of AU treasurers or central party treasurer (as per PPERA s.26(3)(a)). The party may also wish to make some further amends, such as update the references to 'European Elections', 'National Assembly of Wales' and provide the most current list of the party's accounting units.
Financial Scheme	Link	**A**	Meets the requirements of PPERA

[redacted]

10 December 2021

Registration Team member assessment

Applicant party information

Link to party's registered entry	Link (GB), Link (NI)
Link to party accounts	Website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

4. 'Conservative and Unionist Party' (both the party based in GB and in NI) have been registered with the Commission since 1999.
5. The Party registered in GB is currently in government in Westminster.
6. The party leader is the current Prime Minister, Boris Johnson.

Application history

Link to application docs	• The party submitted the documents via email, and posted copies of the signed financial schemes to the BHR office • Constitution • Constitution for Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party • Financial Scheme (GB) • Financial Scheme (NI) • CCM case	
Part of the register	GB (England, Scotland and Wales) NI	
Date first lodged	**Date considered complete**	**Date published for comment**
28 July 2021	29 October 2021	NA

7. The application was submitted on 28 July via email and acknowledged on 10 September.
8. We contacted the party on 04 October to request the party confirm the following:
    a. Whether the documents provided apply to the party on the GB register and the party on the NI register
    b. To provide a copy of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party constitution referenced in the constitution provided on 28 July
    c. Whether the party in NI was intending to establish Accounting Units
    d. If the party could provide a copy of the Financial Scheme

9. The party contacted the Commission on 29 October 2021 and provided answers to the questions set out above. In addition, the party provided the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party constitution, financial scheme for the party in GB and financial scheme for the party in NI.
10. The party posted signed copies of the financial scheme for the party based in GB and in NI which were received on 24 November 2021.

Intention to stand candidates

11. I am satisfied that the constitution makes clear the party intends to stand candidates for election.
    a. The constitution states the Board, responsible for the day to day management of the party, wish establish a 'Committee on Candidates' (19.2). The 'Committee on Candidates' is responsible for establishing a list of candidates for election (Schedule 6, 'Candidate Selection – Committee on Candidates').
    b. Schedule 7 'Rules of the Conservative Party Associations Covering a Single Constituency' and Schedule 7a 'Rules of the Conservative Federation' state that the object of the party is to 'secure the return of Conservative Candidates at election'.

Application form

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

12. I **am** satisfied that the required fee has been provided.
    a. No fee is required to submit an updated constitution and/or scheme.
13. I **am** satisfied that the application has been properly authorised.
    a. The application was submitted via email and post.
    b. The financial schemes for the party based in NI and GB were signed and posted to the Commission's offices in London.

Constitution

Link to constitution subject of application	Link to currently registered constitution
Constitution	We do not hold a copy of the party's previous constitution.
Recommendation	**Approve**
Equality Act issue identified	**No**
Summary reason	The documents provided by the party shows the structure and organisation of the party

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

Structure and organisation of the Party across the United Kingdom

15. The constitution provided by the party includes information regarding the party's structure and organisation across the United Kingdom.
16. Schedule 8 of the constitution includes some provisions regarding the Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party:
    a. The constitution states that 'Scottish Party Members' are bound by the provisions of the Constitution of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party ("SCUP")' (Schedule 8, 1).
    b. Schedule 8, Part 1.1-5 states certain 'rights and obligations' of the SCUP in relation to the Party.
    c. In addition, Schedule 8, Part 2 sets out provisions relating to the SCUP with regards to the Ethics and Integrity Committee.
17. **The constitution of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party has been reviewed separately within this assessment.**
18. Schedule 8 of the constitution includes some provisions regarding the Welsh Conservative Party:
    a. The constitution states that 'The Welsh Conservative Party' established in Wales will be managed by the 'Board for Wales' (Schedule 8).
    b. The constitution states that any rules governing the Welsh party are to be approved by the central Party's Board.

19. The party does not have a similar provision within Schedule 8 setting out the relationship between the Conservative and Unionist Party (GB) and the party in Northern Ireland.
    a. Part VI of the constitution states that Area Councils will be established in NI.

Accounting Units

20. The Commission would expect the following to be included within the financial scheme of a party with accounting units:
    a. A list of the party's AU (this is a PPERA requirement)
    b. An overview of the obligations of the party's accounting units, including:
        i. Acknowledgement that AU transactions and financial position will be kept separate
        ii. Acknowledgement that the assets and liability of AU will also be kept separate
21. We would also expect that a party's constitution is consistent with the financial scheme submitted by the party.
22. I note that the party has not included much information, beyond stating that the party will register AU and providing a list of AUs, within the financial scheme.
23. The party's constitution includes two schedules (see Schedule 7 and 7A) with templates outlining the activities and responsibilities of the party's 'constituency associations'.
    a. Schedule 7a states that the 'Federation Chairman' will become the 'Registered Treasurer' upon election (Schedule 7a, Part 5.11). In addition, the 'Deputy Chairman Membership and Fundraising' has the role of 'deputy Registered Treasurer'. I am of the view the 'deputy registered treasurer' is the equivalent of second officer for the purposes of PPERA.
    b. Schedule 7 states that the 'Association Chairman' will become the 'Registered Treasurer' upon election (Schedule 7, Part 5.11). In addition, the 'Deputy Chairman Membership and Fundraising' has the role of 'deputy Registered Treasurer. I am of the view the 'deputy registered treasurer' is the equivalent of second officer for the purposes of PPERA.
24. In addition, we would expect the party to have provisions regarding the activities of the AU including the reporting and day to day management of the AUs. The constitution has a number of provisions w
    a. The constitution states the
25. PPERA S.31 (4)(b) states that a party must notify the Commission if the accounting unit treasurer or accounting unit officer, registered for the purposes of PPERA S.27(3), changes.

a. Schedule 7 and Schedule 7a state that an Association or Federation must notify the Conservative Central Office within 14 days of a change of treasurer or deputy treasurer. Subsequently, the Central Office has 28 days to notify the Electoral Commission.

b. I am of the view that these provisions satisfy the requirements of PPERA S.31.

26. In my view the constitution **does** show the structure and organisation of the party. In addition, the constitution has sufficient detail generally expected from a party of this size and profile.

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	**Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.**
Summary and recommendation.	27. **The party's constitution, which is the subject of this application, was last updated in January 2021. We do not hold the previous constitution for the party.** 28. **The documents comprising the party's constitution are the 'Conservative and Unionist Party constitution' and the 'Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party constitution'.** 29. **I have reviewed both documents separately, however I have also referenced points where the documents overlap.** 30. **I am of the view that the documents submitted by the party does show the structure and organisation of the party, and has sufficient details generally expected of a party of this size.**
The constitution should reflect which register the party are applying to register in.	31. The constitution states the party has a candidate selection process for, and intends to stand candidates in, Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Schedule 6.6). 32. I am of the view that this statement is sufficient to establish that the party wish to register a party on the GB and a party on the NI register.
The party's aims and objectives.	33. The purpose of the party is stated (Part 1).
A reference to an intention to stand candidates and at which elections.	34. The party will select candidates to stand for election in 'United Kingdom Parliament, English and Welsh Parliaments, Police and Crime Commissioners and other such publicly elected positions' (Schedule 6, 6). 35. **I note that the constitution references an 'English Parliament', which does not exist (Schedule 6, 7).**

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.
	36. The candidate selection process for candidates in Scotland is not stated. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party states the candidate selection process for candidates standing for election in Scotland (Part 10.2). 37. In addition, the SCUP constitution also provides information regarding the ranking of candidates for the Scottish Parliament elections (Part 19).
The candidate selection process (or at least a statement that the party will have one).	38. Candidate selection process for the party is managed by the 'Committee of Board on Candidates' (Schedule 6, 6). 39. The committee has the responsibility to establish a 'Lists of Candidates', also known as 'the Approved Lists' (Schedule 6, 7). 40. The 'Committee on Candidates' shall prepare a procedure for the selection and review of Candidates onto the Approved Lists. Associations are required to select candidates according to this procedure once it has been published (Schedule 6, 8). 41. In addition, the Board can through the 'Committee on Candidates' create rules as to the procedure for 'Associations and other bodies' select Candidates for election (Schedule 6, 10).
The structure of the party and who is responsible for managing the party, including the responsibility of the party officers, the terms of office and procedure for change of those officers.	42. The Board of the Conservative Party 'shall be the supreme decision-making body in matters of Party organisation and management' (Part IV, 12). 43. The Board membership is set out in Part IV, 12.1-13. The membership of the Board includes the Chairman of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party. 44. The Board's responsibilities are stated in Part IV, 17.1 - 23. 45. The Board 'shall establish and maintain' three committees: a. Committee on Membership (Schedule 6) b. Committee on Candidates (Schedule 6) c. Committee on Conferences (Schedule 4) 46. The Treasurer of the party, will be appointed by the leader, and will sit on the Board (Part IV, 12.9). **Regional Officers** 47. The Board shall establish a regional structure in England (Part VI, 36).

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.
	48. Three Regional Officers will be elected, according to Schedule 5, for each region – one Regional Chairman and two Deputy Regional Chairmen (Part VI, 37). 49. The responsibilities of the Regional Officers is listed in Part VI, 39.1-8. **Area Councils** 50. Within England, Wales and Northern Ireland the party will establish Area Councils (Part VI, 26). 51. Area Councils will meet once a year (Part VI, 29) 52. An Area Council includes – the Chairman of each Association within that area (or Chairman of Federation and Constituency officers); two elected representatives of the constituency; the elected members of the Area Management Executive. **Area Management Executive** 53. The Area Management Executive is the 'co-ordinating body' between the Board and local Associations. 54. The Executive is elected (see Schedule 5). The body's role is to improve the performance of Associations and co-ordinate activities/resources within each area. **Associations/Federations** 55. The constitution states an 'Association' will be maintained covering every Parliamentary Constituency (Part VII, 40). 56. In instances where there is insufficient membership for an 'Association' to be formed, a 'Federation' or grouping between different areas can be established. 57. The rules and membership of an Association are set out in Part VII. Including the relationship between Associations and Area Councils, and the establishment of 'Supported Associations' in cases where an Association falls below the minimum membership.
How the party will make and record decisions, as well as any other governance arrangements. For example the frequency, timing and type of meetings and the quorum for meetings.	**The Board** 58. The Board will be the 'supreme' decision-making body in the party (Part IV, 12). 59. The Board will meet no less than 'six times each year' (Part IV, 13). 60. The quorum for any meeting of the Board is eight (Part 12.1-13).The membership of the Board is listed in Part IV, 12.

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.
	61. A Secretary will be appointed to support the Board (Part IV, 15). **Associations, federations and groupings** 62. The rules for local party organisations are set out in Schedule 7 and 7a.
If the party has membership, and if so the process and rules governing that membership.	63. Provisions for party membership are set out in Part II. 64. Membership of the party 'is not compatible with Membership of association with any other registered political party' (Part II, 3). 65. Party members, including those listed in Part II, 5, are expected to: a. Be bound by the Constitution b. 'Work to sustain and promote the objects and values of the party' c. Pay subscription of affiliation fees
How the constitution can be changed and the process for dissolution of the party.	**Changing the constitution** 66. Changes to the constitution can be made according to the processes set out in Part XIII. 67. Any amendment or changes to the constitution must be approved by 'not less than 66% of those members of the Constitutional College voting; and not less than 50% of those members of the Constitutional college eligible to vote' (Part XIII, 91). 68. However, in relation to Parts III, IV, XII and XIII the Constitution can only be amended if approved by, *not less than 50% of those members of the Constitutional College eligible to vote and; not less than 66% of the Members of Parliament voting; and not less than 66% of Members of the National Conservative Convention voting* (Part XIII, 92) **Dissolution of the Party** 69. The constitution does not provide any information regarding the procedure to dissolve the Party. 70. Schedules 7 and 7a provide procedures for the dissolution of a Branch or Federation: a. Schedule 7 'Rules of the Conservative Party Associations covering a single constituency' – b. Schedule 7a 'Rules of the Conservative Federation' -

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	**Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.**
That the party have adopted its financial scheme / The constitution must also be consistent with a party's financial scheme	71. The adoption of the party's financial scheme is not explicitly stated within the constitution. 72. Information regarding the financial structure of accounting units in the party is included in Schedule 7 and Schedule 7a. 73. The financial management of the central party is the responsibility of the Board as set out in Part IV, 17.2. The Treasurer is a member of the Board. It is not mandatory for the Treasurer to attend the Board.
Equality Act consideration	74. I **have not** identified any issues in the legislation relating to equalities legislation.

Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party (SCUP)

Link to constitution subject of application	Link to currently registered constitution
Constitution – Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party (SCUP)	We do not hold a copy of the party's previous constitution.
Recommendation	**Approve**
Equality Act issue identified	**No**
Summary reason	The documents provided by the party show the structure and organisation of the party

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

76. **The constitution submitted by the party included a reference to the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, therefore the party was asked to submit the document for assessment.**

77. **I have reviewed the constitution of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party separately to the Conservative and Unionist Party. However, I have referenced sections where the two documents overlap or are linked.**

78. In my view the constitution **does** show the structure and organisation of the party.

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.
Summary and recommendation.	79. **The documents comprising the party's constitution are the 'Conservative and Unionist Party constitution' and the 'Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party constitution'.** 80. **I have reviewed both documents separately, however I have also referenced points where the documents overlap.** 81. **I am of the view that the documents submitted by the party does show the structure and organisation of the party, and has sufficient details generally expected of a party of this size.**

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	**Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.**
The constitution should reflect which register the party are applying to register in.	82. The constitution states that 'The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party' will be 'affiliated to The Conservative and Unionist Party of the United Kingdom' (Part 1.2).
The party's aims and objectives.	83. The constitution states the party's 'Objects' and 'Functions' in Parts 2 and 3 respectively.
A reference to an intention to stand candidates and at which elections.	84. The constitution states that the 'objects of the party' is to 'maximise its representation in the European Parliament, the House of Commons', the Scottish Parliament and in Local Government in Scotland' (Part 2).
The candidate selection process (or at least a statement that the party will have one).	85. The constitution states that the party will have a 'Candidates Board' which will select individuals to stand as candidates for the party (Part 10.2). 86. The role of the committee is to consider applications from members of the Party for candidacy at 'European Parliament, House of Commons and Scottish Parliament' (Part 10.2.2.a). 87. The committee will also have responsibility for 'training and political education' of approved (or potential) candidates (Part 10.2.2.b). 88. The constitution has provisions for ranking candidates for the Scottish Parliamentary List (see Part 19).
The structure of the party and who is responsible for managing the party, including the responsibility of the party officers, the terms of office and procedure for change of those officers.	89. The 'supreme authority of the party shall be a duly convened Conference' (Part 13.1). 90. The party will be managed through the 'Management Board' (Part 9). 91. The Constituency Association in Scotland will be grouped into Regions which will be managed by a 'Regional Council' (Part 12.2). 92. The Scottish party will also hold a Scottish Convention. The purpose of the Scottish Convention is to receive reports from the leader/chairman.
How the party will make and record decisions, as well as any other governance arrangements. For example the frequency, timing and type of meetings and the quorum for meetings.	**Conference** 93. The 'supreme authority of the party shall be a duly convened Conference' (Part 13.1). 94. Conference will be convened by the Management Board 'at least once in each calendar year to be held not more than 15 months apart' (Part 13.2).

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.
	95. The quorum for Conference is stated in Part 14.1, 'not less than 50 persons'. **Management Board** 96. The party will be managed through the 'Management Board' (Part 9). 97. The responsibilities of the Management Board is set out in Part 9.1.1-9. 98. The members of the Management Board is stated in Part 9.2. 99. The appointment and election of Management Board is stated in Part 9.3. 100. If a casual vacancy occurs within the Management Board it will be filled according to Part 9.4. 101. The Management Board members are 'entitled' to attend all meetings of the Scottish Convention and Regional Councils (Part 9.5). 102. The Management Board will meet 'no fewer than six times a year' (Part 9.6). 103. The quorum for the Management Board is stated in Part 14.3, 'Not less than one-half of its voting membership'. **Committees of the Management Board** 104. The constitution states there will be a number of committees of the Management Board (Part 10). 105. The membership and responsibilities of these committees is stated in Part 10.1. **Scottish Convention** 106. The Scottish Convention is open to all members of the party 'of three months standing' (Part 11.1). 107. The convention is a forum to receive reports from the leader/chairman and shall be chaired by the Conference Convener (Part 11.2). 108. The convention will meet 'not less than twice per annum' (Part 11.3). 109. The quorum of the Scottish Convention is stated in Part 14.3, 'not less than 30 persons'. **Regional Councils**

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.
	110. The Constituency Association in Scotland will be grouped into Regions which will be managed by a 'Regional Council' (Part 12.2). 111. The membership and responsibilities of the Regional Council are stated in Part 12. 112. The quorum of the Regional Councils is stated in Part 14.4, 'not less than 15 persons'.
If the party has membership, and if so the process and rules governing that membership.	113. The constitution has provisions regarding the membership of the party, stated in Part 5.
How the constitution can be changed and the process for dissolution of the party.	114. Dissolution of the party – The constitution states that if an affiliated body of the party is 'dissolved or disaffiliated or ceasing to be for any reasons whatsoever' any assets are to be divided according to Part 8. 115. Changing the constitution – The constitution has provisions for 'Amendments' stated in Part 17.
That the party have adopted its financial scheme / The constitution must also be consistent with a party's financial scheme	**Role of the treasurer** 116. **I am of the view that the role of 'treasurer' referenced in the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party constitution is the same individual who holds the position of treasurer within the Conservative and Unionist Party.** 117. **However, as far as I am aware, the constitution does not explicitly state that this is the case.** 118. The constitution states that the treasurer 'shall be responsible to the Management Board for overseeing the financial affairs of the Party' (Part 9.3.6). a. The constitution states that the treasurer shall also chair the Fundraising and Finance Board (Part 9.3.6). b. The Fundraising and Finance Board, responsible for the Party's fundraising, shall be chaired by the treasurer' (Part 10.5). 119. The property of the party is vested in the 'Chairman, Conference Convener, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer' (Part 15). **Accounting Units** 120. The constitution states that any affiliated bodies are to 'submit to the Party Director a copy of its Annual Report

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.
	and a report of activities within 28 days of the same being approved by its Annual General Meeting (Part 7.1.3). 121. The constitution also stated that the affiliated body would be expected 'to submit to the Treasurer a copy of its balance sheet and annual accounts', as well as 'a statement of anticipated income and expenditure for the next year' (Parts 7.5.5 and 7.1.6, respectively).
Equality Act consideration	122. I **have not** identified any issues in the legislation relating to equalities legislation.

Financial scheme – Party based in GB

Link to financial scheme subject of application	Link to currently registered financial scheme
Financial Scheme (GB) List of Accounting Units	We do not hold a copy of the party's previous financial scheme.
Recommendation	**Amend**
Summary reason	Please note that under s26(5 and 6), where a party submits a scheme to us, we must either approve the scheme or give the party notice to amend the scheme. We must specify those amendments. I have suggested one main amendment which must be addressed and some minor amendments. The party must revise the scheme to make clear that 'affiliated organisations' mentioned in the constitution will be under the control of AU treasurers or central party treasurer (as per PPERA s.26(3)(a)). The party may also wish to make some further amends, such as update the references to 'European Elections', 'National Assembly of Wales' and provide the most current list of the party's accounting units.

123. Pursuant to section 26 of PPERA, a party may not be registered unless it has adopted a scheme which sets out the arrangement for regulating the financial affairs of the party for the purposes of PPERA.

124. The party's scheme should be consistent with its constitution, which can be viewed here.

125. I am of the view that the scheme **does** set out the arrangements for regulating the financial affairs of the party of the purposes of PPERA.

a. The template text is out of date and includes references to 'European Elections' and 'National Assembly of Wales' (see Financial scheme, 1.15).

b. This error has not been corrected by the party.

c. In my view this is a minor issue, and not a reason to reject the scheme. However, the party should be given an opportunity to correct this if we go back to the party with further amendments.

Control of 'affiliated organisations'

126. I have spoken to colleagues in the Financial Reporting team who have stated that in their opinion the scheme **does not** reflect the structure of the party, as per the Constitution (link to correspondence here).

127. FR has stated that the financial scheme states that 'affiliated organisations' will be under control of the accounting unit treasurers (see financial scheme, 1.4). However, the constitution has a number of organisation which do not appear to be part of a registered accounting unit.

128. These organisations include:

a. 1922 Committee (Constitution, Schedule 1.2)

b. Conservative Policy Forums (Constitution, Part VIII)

c. Scottish Conservatives (Constitution, Schedule 8/ see also point 117 above)

d. Welsh Conservatives (Constitution, Schedule 8)

129. **Given the comments from FR colleagues, I recommend that we request the party amend the scheme to state whether each of the bodies listed above are under the control of central party or a specific accounting unit. In addition, the party should include reference in the scheme to any organisation mentioned in the constitution which is considered to be a 'Recognised Organisation' (Constitution, Part IX).**

130. This recommendation is in line with PPERA s.26(3)(a) which requires the scheme to "identify, by reference to organisations mentioned in the party's constitution, those which are to constitute the central organisation and the accounting units respectively".

List of Accounting Units (PPERA S26(2) and (3))

131. As required by PPPERA (S26(2) and (3)) the scheme includes a list of 574 accounting units in an appendix.

a. This list does not include 3 AUs listed on the party's entry on the register - Bridgend & Ogmore Federation, Gower & Swansea Federation, City of Durham & Easington.

b. In my view this is a minor issue, and not a reason to reject the scheme. However, the party should be given an opportunity to correct this if we go back to the party with further amendments.

Reporting responsibilities of AUs (PPERA Schedule 5)

132. The scheme states that the financial affairs of 'local branches or affiliated organisations' will be controlled by 'each accounting unit's Registered Treasurer.

133. I am of the view this statement implies the party is aware of the division of responsibilities for a party with accounting units, as stated in PPERA S49 and in Schedule 5.

134. However, in my view **there are no provisions** within the scheme which explicitly state that AU treasurers will be responsible for the specific responsibilities of AUs as set out in Schedule 5 of PPERA.

135. I suggest that the party include further information about arrangements relating to the specific responsibilities of the party's accounting units, including:

c. Details that the party accounting units will prepare their own statement of accounts which will be delivered to the central party treasurer. In addition, accounting units that meet the reporting threshold (over £250,000) will submit accounts to us.

i. This information would be consistent with PPERA s.49 which states that for a party with accounting units, responsibilities under s.41-48 (ie. maintaining records and submitting accounts) are dealt with by accounting units.

d. Details that each accounting unit will record donations and loans over £1,500, report these to the central party treasurer, who will then report these on the unit's behalf as part of the relevant quarterly report.

ii. This information would be consistent with PPERA s.62 which states that a party must submit quarterly donation reports.

e. Details that accounting units will report donations over £500 to the central party treasurer to check for permissibility. In addition, that the central party treasurer will have responsibility to instruct AU to return impermissible donations within the required timeframe.

iii. This information would be consistent will PPERA s.54 concerning the permissibility of donations.

Reporting requirements NI and GB parties

136. The financial scheme **does state** that the financial affairs of the party in NI will be kept separate to the party based in GB (Financial Scheme, 1.12 and 1.14).

a. PPERA s.26(10) states that if a party is registered in the GB and NI register the party's scheme 'must show that the financial affairs of the party in Great Britain will be conducted separately from those of those in Northern Ireland'.

b. The scheme states the party will submit separate quarterly donation returns and quarterly loan returns for the party on the NI register (see 1.12 and 1.14, respectively).

137. Based on the information available to me, I am of the view that the party **has not adopted** the scheme.

f. The content of the scheme does not reflect the structure and organisation as set out in the constitution. The scheme does not identify which affiliated organisations mentioned in the constitution 'constitute the central organisation and the accounting units respectively' (PPERA s.26(3)(a)). I have

recommended that the party submit amendments to address this issue at Point 136 above.

g. I recommend that the party include reference to each of the organisations referenced in the scheme and state whether the central party or an AU will be responsible for their obligations under PPERA.

a. In addition to the point above I also note that:

i. The scheme has been signed by all registered officers for the party. This supports the view that the party has adopted its scheme.

ii. The party has been subject to some recent sanctions (see table 'April 2021 – present'), including:

1. Failure to deliver accurate weekly pre-poll donations report for 2019 UK Parliamentary General Election
2. Failure to deliver accurate quarterly donations reports
3. Failure to return donations from impermissible donors within 30 days

138. The party's financial year end **does** match the financial year end indicated on the application form.

a. The financial year end provided in the financial scheme is 31/12 and the financial year end stated on PEF Online is 31/12.

Financial scheme – Party based in NI

Link to financial scheme subject of application	**Link to currently registered financial scheme**
Financial Scheme (NI)	We do not hold a copy of the party's previous financial scheme.
Recommendation	**Approve**
Summary reason	Meets the requirements of PPERA

139. Pursuant to section 26 of PPERA, a party may not be registered unless it has adopted a scheme which sets out the arrangement for regulating the financial affairs of the party for the purposes of PPERA.

140. The party's scheme should be consistent with its constitution, which can be viewed here.

141. I am of the view that the scheme **does** set out the arrangements for regulating the financial affairs of the party of the purposes of PPERA.

a. The party have used the template financial scheme provided by the Commission. The template financial scheme is not suitable for parties with more complex financial arrangements or with accounting units.

b. The party have amended the template in the following ways:

i. The financial scheme states that the financial affairs of the party in NI will be kept separate to the party based in GB. The scheme does not provide examples showing how the party will separate its financial affairs in practice.

ii. The financial scheme states that the party treasurer 'Allan Mabbutt' will be responsible for the party's compliance with PPERA.

iii. The party states that it does not wish to register any accounting units, but should it wish to register accounting units it would provide a separate appendix with those details. This is constituent with PPERA (S26(2) and (3)).

c. I have asked the Financial Reporting team to review the document and they have stated that the scheme looks to be compliant (correspondence here).

142. Based on the information available to me, I am of the view that the party **has adopted** the scheme.

b. The scheme has been signed by all registered officers for the party. This supports the view that the party has adopted its scheme.

c. The content of the scheme reflects the structure and organisation as set out in the constitution.

143. The party's financial year end **does** match the financial year end indicated on the application form.

d. The financial year end provided in the financial scheme is 31/12 and the financial year end stated on PEF Online is 31/12.

RECEIVED
24 NOV 2021

[redacted]

Financial scheme

The Conservative and Unionist Party (Great Britain)

Introduction

1.1 This scheme sets out how The Conservative and Unionist Party (GB) ('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 The Conservative and Unionist Party (GB)'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 Conservative and Unionist Party (GB) has registered separate accounting units with the Commission, these are included on a schedule attached.

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 each accounting unit's Registered 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 Alan Mabbutt, the registered treasurer of Conservative and Unionist Party (GB) is responsible for the whole Party's compliance with the requirements of the Act, including the following:

Annual accounts

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

1.8 In order to comply with this requirement, Alan Mabbutt 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 The Conservative and Unionist Party (GB) 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, Alan Mabbutt will:

For donations:

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

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

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

For loans (regulated transactions):

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

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

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

Campaign expenditure

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

1.16 In order to ensure compliance with the legislation, Alan Mabbutt 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, The Conservative and Unionist Party (GB) 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 The Conservative and Unionist Party (GB) 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 The Conservative and Unionist Party (GB) 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 The Conservative and Unionist Party (GB) 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, Alan Mabbutt, will ensure that the registered leader and all other officers and members of The Conservative and Unionist Party (GB) 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, Alan Mabbutt, will ensure that any proposed amendments to this financial scheme are submitted to the Commission for approval.

Signed

Leader: _____ Date: 28/10/21

Treasurer: _____ Date: 28/10/21

Nominating officer: _____ Date: 28/10/21

[redacted]

E-mail

RE: Conservative and...

Sent Date 01/12/2021 11:31

E-mail

From [redacted] **Cc**

To [redacted] **Bcc**

Subject RE: Conservative and Unionist Party - constitution and financial scheme assessment CCM:0058071

Hi [redacted]

I hope you are now feeling better!

I will incorporate the below into the assessment. Thank you for getting back to us.

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]**@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Sent: 01 December 2021 11:30
To: [redacted]**@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Cc: [redacted]**@electoralcommission.org.uk>;** [redacted]
< [redacted]**@electoralcommission.org.uk>**
Subject: RE: Conservative and Unionist Party - constitution and financial scheme assessment CCM:0058071

Hi [redacted]

I have read through the Constitution and the financial scheme and my opinion is that the scheme does not reflect the structure of the Party as per the Constitution.

1.4 This paragraph states that 'affiliated organisations' will be under the control of the accounting unit treasurer. This is clearly not the case, as there are numerous examples of party organisations in the Constitution that are part of the central party. This includes, for example, the National Conservative Convention in Part V of the Constitution and Area Councils and other organisations referred to in Part VI.

There is also mention of Conservative Policy Forums and Recognised Organisations where it is not clear if these are under the control of the Central Party Treasurer or not.

Likewise, it is not clear of whom is in control of the finances of, e.g., the 1922 Committee, the Scottish Conservatives, the Welsh Conservatives, etc.

I would suggest that the financial scheme needs to refer to all bodies mentioned in the Constitution (including ones I have not mentioned), as to whether they are under the control of the central party or whether they are accounting units.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 01 December 2021 11:16
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Conservative and Unionist Party - constitution and financial scheme assessment CCM:0058071

Hi [redacted]

Apologies, as I have been off ill.

I have now read through the scheme and Constitution and will get back to you with my thoughts, hopefully today.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 26 November 2021 17:54
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Conservative and Unionist Party - constitution and financial scheme assessment

Hi [redacted]

The NI financial scheme seems to be fine.

I'll get back to you on the GB one.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 22 November 2021 12:13
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Conservative and Unionist Party - constitution and financial scheme assessment

Hi [redacted],

One of us will review it by then.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 22 November 2021 11:53
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Conservative and Unionist Party - constitution and financial scheme assessment

Hi [redacted]

I was hoping to have this assessment completed by then end of this week. However, if the team require longer to assess the documents please let me know.

[redacted] **– I note** [redacted]**'s comment regarding the NI template scheme. I am assuming this will be one of the issues picked up with your project.**

Thanks,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 22 November 2021 11:48
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Conservative and Unionist Party - constitution and financial scheme assessment

Hi [redacted]

Do you have a time line for reviewing this, please?

In the meantime, I noticed a mistake on the NI financial scheme, which I suspect is an issue with the model template for NI. Paragraphs 1.12 and 1.14 (quarterly reporting of donations and loans) refers to the party also being on the NI register; it should refer to the NI party also being on the GB register (the GB version of the template is correct).

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 15 November 2021 12:48
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: Conservative and Unionist Party - constitution and financial scheme assessment

Hi [redacted]

The Conservative and Unionist Party have submitted an updated constitution and financial scheme for the party. I am currently working through the assessment. It would be useful if a member of Financial Reporting could review the Financial Scheme, especially the Accounting Unit provisions and the separation of the financial affairs of the GB and NI party. I spoke to [redacted] **about this last month.**

The constitution is saved here and financial schemes are attached to this email.

Happy to give you a call or set up a meeting to discuss further.

Thanks,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

Regarding	2021-07-13 - Conservative and Unionist Party (GB) - Annual Renewals
Owner	[redacted]
Keywords	
Duration	**Priority** Normal
Due	
Category	**Sub-Category**

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category	**PEF Category**

Attachments

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

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

0 - 0 of 0 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason **Sent**

[redacted]

E-mail

RE: Conservative Part...

Sent Date 20/01/2022 11:40

E-mail

From Partyreg **Cc** Alan Mabbutt; Alan Mabbutt; Alan Mabbutt

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

Subject RE: Conservative Party Constitution CCM:0553842

Dear [redacted],

I am writing regarding the email sent on 05 January 2022.

As explained in the email below there is one amendment which the party must make to the scheme. We also suggest a couple of minor issues the party may wish to consider.

Matters requiring amendment

The party should adapt the scheme to make clear which 'affiliated organisations' (set out above) are accounting units and which, for finance purposes, are constituent to the central party. It will not be necessary to name each of the organisations that constitute the central party. The scheme could, in addition to making clear which organisations comprise the party's accounting units, contain a statement confirming that all other organisations are part of the central party for finance purposes. For further information please see the email below.

Suggested further amends

In addition to the above the party may wish to consider amending the following points:
Remove references to 'European elections' and update references to 'National Assembly of Wales' (to 'Senedd/ Welsh Parliament')
The party is required to provide an up to date list of the party's accounting units (as reflected in its entry on the register)

We recommend that the party consider the issues set out in the email below and revise the document as soon as possible.

Please get in touch if you have any further queries about this message. You can find guidance in relation to registering and maintaining a party on our website here.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Partyreg
Sent: 05 January 2022 11:43
To [redacted]@conservatives.com' <[redacted]@conservatives.com>
Cc [redacted]@Conservatives.com' [redacted]@Conservatives.com>
Subject: RE: Conservative Party Constitution CCM:0553842

Dear [redacted],

Approval of new constitution

I write to inform you that we have approved your party's new constitution which you submitted to us on 29 October 2021.

Approval of new financial scheme (party based in NI)

We have approved the financial scheme for the party based in Northern Ireland submitted to us on 29 October 2021.

Further amendments needed for new financial scheme (party based in GB)

Section 26(5)(b) of the Political Party, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) provides that where a financial scheme is submitted to us we must either approve the scheme or give the party notice to amend the scheme. There is one amendment which the party must make to the scheme. We also suggest a couple of minor issues the party may wish to consider.

Matters requiring amendment

PPERA s.26(3)(a) requires a party with accounting units to 'identify by reference to organisations mentioned in the party's constitution, those which are to constitute the central organisation and the accounting units respectively'.

The constitution states that there are a number of organisations that comprise the party structure. These include:

- **1922 Committee (Schedule 1.2)**
- **Conservative Policy Forums (Part VIII)**
- **Scottish Conservatives (Schedule 8)**
- **Welsh Conservatives (Schedule 8)**
- **Others that are considered to be 'Recognised Organisation[s]' (Part IX)**

This means that there are organisations mentioned in the constitution which are not said to either constitute the central organisation, or any of its accounting units, as required by PPERA.

The party should adapt the scheme to make clear which 'affiliated organisations' (set out above) are accounting units and which, for finance purposes, are constituent to the central party.

It will not be necessary to name each of the organisations that constitute the central party. The scheme could, in addition to making clear which organisations comprise the party's accounting units, contain a statement confirming that all other organisations are part of the central party for finance purposes.

Suggested further amends

In addition to the above the party may wish to consider amending the following points:

- **Remove references to 'European elections' and update references to 'National Assembly of Wales' (to 'Senedd/ Welsh Parliament')**
- **The party is required to provide an up to date list of the party's accounting units (as reflected in its entry on the register)**

We recommend that the party consider the issues set out above and revise the document as soon as possible.

Future amendments to your constitution

You should notify us of any future changes made to the party's constitution, and you must do so if any changes have been made since the party last delivered its renewal notification. It is therefore very important that you continue to provide us with any updates to your party's constitution.

New constitutions must be approved by us. We will assess any revised constitution that you provide.

Future amendments to your scheme

This scheme which we have approved refers to the party's treasurer by name. If a new person becomes the registered treasurer then the party should provide us with an updated scheme to reflect this change.

New financial schemes must be approved in writing by us. We will assess any revised financial scheme that you provide.

Please get in touch if you have any further queries about this message. You can find guidance in relation to registering and maintaining a party on our website here.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Partyreg
Sent: 26 November 2021 09:39
To: [redacted]@conservatives.com' [redacted]@conservatives.com>
Subject: RE: Conservative Party Constitution CCM:0553842

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for posting the signed financial schemes to our offices in London, we have now received these documents.

Please consider this email as confirmation of receipt.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Partyreg
Sent: 18 November 2021 14:37
To: [redacted] [redacted]@conservatives.com>
Subject: RE: Conservative Party Constitution CCM:0553842

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email.

Please post the financial schemes to our office in London. I have included the address below.

Party Registration Team
Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

I will provide email confirmation of receipt once we have received them.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]@conservatives.com>
Sent: 18 November 2021 12:12
To: Partyreg <Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Conservative Party Constitution CCM:0553842

[redacted]

I now have the signed Financial Schemes. Am I please ok to post this addressed to you to 3 Bunhill Row?

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Party Organisation

Conservative Campaign Headquarters, 4 Matthew Parker Street, London SW1H 9HQ
Tel: [redacted]

From: Partyreg <Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 29 October 2021 14:53
To: [redacted]@conservatives.com>
Cc: Mabbutt, Alan [redacted]@Conservatives.com>
Subject: RE: Conservative Party Constitution CCM:0553842

*** External Email ***

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for providing these documents and answers to the questions set out in my earlier email. Please consider this email as confirmation of receipt.

We will review the documents and let you know if we require any further information. I note that the signed financial scheme will be forwarded on shortly, thank you for letting us know.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]@conservatives.com>
Sent: 29 October 2021 14:47
To: Partyreg <Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: Mabbutt, Alan [redacted]@Conservatives.com>
Subject: RE: Conservative Party Constitution CCM:0553842

Apologies, please see attached missing appendix now attached.

[redacted]

[redacted] | Party Organisation

Conservative Campaign Headquarters, 4 Matthew Parker Street, London SW1H 9HQ
Tel: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 October 2021 09:20
To: Partyreg <Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: Mabbutt, Alan [redacted]@Conservatives.com>
Subject: RE: Conservative Party Constitution CCM:0553842

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email. I've addressed each question below.

GB & NI

Please confirm whether or not the constitution provided is also the constitution of the Conservative and Unionist Party registered on the Great Britain register?

Yes, it is the same but it is to be reviewed under proposed changes in officers.

Scottish Conservatives

Please could you confirm that this document comprises part of the party's constitution within the meaning given in section 26(9) PPERA. If so, we would be grateful if you could provide a copy of this document as part of our assessment.

Scottish constitution is attached

Establishing Accounting Units

-

Please confirm whether or not the Northern Ireland party has established, or intends to establish, any accounting units? If the party does register accounting units you will be required to submit an updated financial scheme to reflect these changes.

Agree that none are registered, this may change over the next few months but for now there are none to be registered.

Financial Scheme

-

We have reviewed the financial schemes in place and these have been updated. Due to COP26 commitments we are waiting on signatures from our Party Leader, please see versions attached which are signed by our Registered Treasurer. As soon as these are fully signed I will send on.

Please do let me know if you have any questions on the above.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Party Organisation

Conservative Campaign Headquarters, 4 Matthew Parker Street, London SW1H 9HQ
Tel: [redacted]

From: Partyreg <Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 04 October 2021 13:26
To: [redacted]@conservatives.com>
Subject: RE: Conservative Party Constitution CCM:0553842

***** External Email *****

Dear [redacted],

We confirm receipt of your updated constitution on 28 July 2021. We apologise for the delayed acknowledgement.

We will now assess it against the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). At this point we cannot confirm whether or not it will be approved.

By law, when a party applies to be registered it must give us a copy of its constitution. Section 26(9) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act (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. A party must also have adopted a financial scheme which sets out the arrangements for regulating the financial affairs of the party for the purposes of PPERA.

For the purpose of clarity, we considered the documents of your constitution to be 'Constitution of the Conservative Party'.

Matters for consideration

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

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

Great Britain and Northern Ireland registers

There are two registers of political parties: the Great Britain register and the Northern Ireland register. A party registered on both the Great Britain and the Northern Ireland registers are two separate registered parties for PPERA purposes.

The party's updated constitution was provided in relation to the Conservative and Unionist Party registered on the Northern Ireland register. Please confirm whether or not the constitution provided is also the constitution of the

Conservative and Unionist Party registered on the Great Britain register?

Providing that we are satisfied that the constitution satisfies the requirements of PPERA, we will update our records for both the Great Britain and Northern Ireland parties accordingly.

Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party constitution

Schedule 8, Part 1 of the updated constitution states that Scottish Party members are bound by the provisions of the Constitution of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party. **Please could you confirm that this document comprises part of the party's constitution within the meaning given in section 26 (9) PPERA. If so, we would be grateful if you could provide a copy of this document as part of our assessment.**

Establishing accounting units

The Northern Ireland party contacted the Commission recently regarding the process for registering accounting units. **Please confirm whether or not the Northern Ireland party has established, or intends to establish, any accounting units? If the party does register accounting units you will be required to submit an updated financial scheme to reflect these changes.**

Financial Scheme

We do not hold recent versions of the financial schemes for either the Great Britain or Northern Ireland parties. So that our records are complete, we will be grateful if you could provide an up-to-date version of the NI party's financial scheme and GB party's financial scheme for our records once the constitution for the parties has been assessed and finalised.

We provide a template scheme for parties to use on our website. If you are planning on using it as the basis for your revised financial schemes you will need to adapt it to reflect the structure of each party as set out in the constitution. For example the template scheme does not have provisions for accounting units.

Please note, where a party is registered in both the Great Britain and Northern Ireland registers, the party's financial scheme must show that the financial affairs of the party in Great Britain will be conducted separately from those of the party in Northern Ireland.

[redacted] **can provide further guidance and assistance on this matter after the constitution for the parties has been assessed and finalised. However, if you wish to submit updated financial schemes for assessment at the same time as your constitution then please let us know.**

New financial schemes must be approved in writing by us. We will assess any revised financial schemes that you provide.

Next steps

We would be grateful if you could provide the following to allow us to assess the constitution:

Confirmation that the constitution submitted covers the party registered in Great Britain as well as Northern Ireland
A copy of the 'Constitution of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party'

Any changes to a party's details, such as the submission of an updated constitution, must be authorised by all party officers. When we have received all of the documents which comprise the constitution we will require evidence that all party officers have authorised the changes.

Should you wish to amend your application please do so no later than 29 October 2021.

Please contact us if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Partyreg
Sent: 10 September 2021 13:37
To: [redacted]@conservatives.com>
Cc: [redacted]>
Subject: RE: Conservative Party Constitution

Dear [redacted],

Apologies for the delay in responding to your email.

We confirm receipt of your new constitution on 28 July 2021.

We will now assess it against the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). At this point we cannot confirm whether or not it will be approved.

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.

As part of the assessment process, we may ask for further information regarding the constitution.

We will contact you again once we have made a decision. The final decision is taken by the Director of Regulation.

In the meantime, you can find guidance in relation to registering and maintaining a party on our website.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]@conservatives.com>
Sent: 28 July 2021 14:05
To: PEF Inbox <pef@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Conservative Party Constitution

Good afternoon,

As requested please see attached updated constitution for the NI renewal.

Thank you,

[redacted]

[redacted] Party Organisation

Conservative Campaign Headquarters, 4 Matthew Parker Street, London SW1H 9HQ
Tel: [redacted]

This email and any attachments to it (the 'Email') are intended for a specific recipient(s) and its contents may be confidential, privileged and/or otherwise protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient or have received this Email in error, please notify the sender immediately by telephone or email, and delete it from your records. You must not disclose, distribute, copy or

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Join the Conservatives today and help secure a brighter future for Britain: https://www.conservatives.com/join
Leave a gift in your Will – be proud to protect your Party: http://www.conservativefoundation.co.uk/
Promoted by Alan Mabbutt on behalf of the Conservative and Unionist Party, both at 4 Matthew Parker Street, London, SW1H 9HQ

Regarding 2021-07-13 - Conservative and Unionist Party (GB) - Annual Renewals

Owner [redacted]

Keywords

Duration **Priority** Normal

Due

Category **Sub-Category**

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category **PEF Category**

Attachments

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

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

0 - 0 of 0 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason Sent

[redacted]

2.3 Rheolau Sefydlog Cyllidol a Chynllun Ariannol

1 Mae'r Rheolau Sefydlog hyn yn nodi sut y bydd Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales yn rheoli ei busnes ariannol yn cynnwys ar gyfer pwrpas cydymffurfiaeth gyda'r Ddeddf Pleidiau Gwleidyddol, Etholiadau a Refferenda 2000 ("y Ddeddf").

2 2.1 **Unedau Cyfrifo**

Dymuna Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales gael unedau cyfrifo ar wahân fel a ganlyn i'w drefniadaeth canolog er mwyn darparu ar gyfer pob un o'i sefydliadau cyfansoddol i fod yn gyfrifol am ei fusnes ariannol ei hunan.

[redacted]

Mae'r sefydliadau cyfansoddol dilynol i fod yn unedau Cyfrifo:

i. Pwyllgorau Etholaeth

1. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Aberafan
2. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Alyn Glannau Dyfrdwy
3. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Blaenau Gwent
4. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Bro Morgannwg
5. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Brycheiniog a Maesyfed
6. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Caernarfon
7. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Caerffili
8. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Canol Caerdydd
9. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Castell Nedd
10. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Ceredigion
11. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Conwy
12. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Cwm Cynon
13. Pwyllgor Etholaeth De Caerdydd a Phenarth
14. Pwyllgor Etholaeth De Clwyd
15. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Delyn
16. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Dyffryn Clwyd
17. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Dwyrain Abertawe
18. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Dwyrain Caerfyrddin a

2.3 Financial Standing Orders And Financial Scheme

1 These Standing Orders set out how Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales will regulate its financial affairs including for the purpose of compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 ("the Act").

2.1 **Accounting Units**

Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales wishes to have accounting units as follows separate from its central organisation in order to provide for each constituent organisation to be responsible for its own financial affairs.

The following constituent organisations are to be accounting units:

i. Constituency Committees

1. Aberavon Constituency Committee
2. Alyn Deeside Constituency Committee
3. Blaenau Gwent Constituency Committee
4. Brecon & Radnor Constituency Committee
5. Bridgend Constituency Committee
6. Caernarfon Constituency Committee
7. Caerffili Constituency Committee
8. Cardiff Central Constituency Committee
9. Cardiff North Constituency Committee
10. Cardiff South & Penarth Constituency Committee
11. Cardiff West Constituency Committee
12. Carmarthen East & Dinefwr Constituency Committee
13. Carmarthen West & South Pembrokeshire Constituency Committee
14. Ceredigion Constituency Committee
15. Clwyd South Constituency Committee

Dinefwr
19. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Dwyrain Casnewydd
20. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Gogledd Caerdydd
21. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Gorllewin Abertawe
22. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Gorllewin Caerdydd
23. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Gorllewin Caerfyrddin a De Penfro
24. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Gorllewin Casnewydd
25. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Gorllewin Clwyd
26. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Gwyr
27. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Islwyn
28. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Llanelli
29. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Maldwyn
30. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Meirionnydd Nant Conwy
31. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Merthyr Tudful & Rhymni
32. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Mynwy
33. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
34. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Ogwr
35. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Pontypridd
36. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Preseli Penfro
37. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Rhondda
38. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Torfaen
39. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Wrecsam
40. Pwyllgor Etholaeth Ynys Môn

ii. Canghennau y tu allan i Gymru

1. Cangen Llundain
2. Cangen Canolbarth Lloegr

iii. Pleidiau Seneddol

1. Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
2. San Steffan

2.2 Ni fydd Canghennau o fewn Cymru yn Unedau Cyfrifo ar wahân ond cânt eu hystyried yn rhan o Uned Gyfrifo y pwyllgor etholaeth perthnasol.

2.3 Ni fydd Adrannau Cenedlaethol a Phwyllgorau Rhanbarth Etholiadol y Cynulliad yn Unedau Cyfrifo ar wahân, a byddant yn yn uniongyrchol atebol i Drysorydd cenedlaethol y blaid.

16. Clwyd West Constituency Committee
17. Conwy Constituency Committee
18. Cynon Valley Constituency Committee
19. Delyn Constituency Committee
20. Gower Constituency Committee
21. Islwyn Constituency Committee
22. Llanelli Constituency Committee
23. Meirionnydd Nant Conwy Constituency
24. Merthyr Tudful & Rhymni Constituency Committee Committee
25. Monmouth Constituency Committee
26. Montgomeryshire Constituency Committee
27. Neath Constituency Committee
28. Newport East Constituency Committee
29. Newport West Constituency Committee
30. Ogmore Constituency Committee
31. Pontypridd Constituency Committee
32. Preseli Pembroke Constituency Committee
33. Rhondda Constituency Committee
34. Swansea East Constituency Committee
35. Swansea West Constituency Committee
36. Torfaen Constituency Committee
37. Vale of Clwyd Constituency Committee
38. Vale of Glamorgan Constituency Committee
39. Wrecsam Constituency Committee
40. Ynys Môn Constituency Committee

ii. Branches Outside Wales

1. London Branch
2. Midlands of England Branch

iii. Parliamentary Parties

1. National Assembly for Wales
2. Westminster

2.2 Branches within Wales shall not be separate Accounting Units, but shall be considered to be part of the relevant constituency committee Accounting Unit.

2.3 National Sections and National Assembly Regional Electoral Area Committees shall not be separate Accounting Units, but shall be directly accountable to the party's national Treasurer.

2.4 Ni fydd Pwyllgorau Ardal Llywodraeth Leol yn Unedau Cyfrifo ar wahân, ond cânt eu trin fel canghennau o fewn etholaethau. Bydd y Pwyllgor Gwaith Cenedlaethol yn nodi pa etholaeth sy'n gyfrifol am ba ardal.

2.5 Ni fydd Grwpiau Cynghorwyr yn Unedau Cyfrifo ar wahân, ond cânt eu trin fel canghennau o fewn etholaethau. Bydd y Pwyllgor Gwaith Cenedlaethol yn nodi pa etholaeth sy'n gyfrifol am ba ardal.

2.6 Bydd busnes ariannol pob corff arall o'r blaid nas rheolir gan Uned Gyfrifo yn uniongyrchol atebol i Drysorydd cenedlaethol y blaid.

2.7 Ni chaiff unrhyw gorff o fewn y blaid nad yw wedi ei ddynodi fel Uned Cyfrifo weithredu cyfrif banc na gwneud unrhyw wariant, na derbyn unrhyw incwm, os na chafwyd cytundeb ymlaen llaw gyda'r Trysorydd Genedlaethol parthed pa Uned Gyfrifo sydd i gynnwys cyfrifon banc, incwm, neu wariant yn ei dro.

3 Yng nghyswllt y blaid yn genedlaethol, bydd pob cyfrif banc dan awdurdod y Pwyllgor Gwaith, a dim ond drwy benderfyniad y Pwyllgor Gwaith y cânt eu hagor neu eu cau. Cytunir ar fandadau banc yng nghyfarfod cyffredinol blynyddol y Pwyllgor Gwaith a bydd llofnodion awdurdodedig bob amser yn cynnwys y Trysorydd Cenedlaethol.

4 Ni ddyfernir unrhyw gontract ar gyfer cyflenwad nwyddau neu wasanaethau ar ran y blaid yn genedlaethol ar wahân gan berson neu bersonau a awdurdodwyd ar gyfer y pwrpas hwnnw gan y Pwyllgor Gwaith. Ni cheir dyfarnu unrhyw gontract o'r fath i unrhyw aelod o'r Pwyllgor Gwaith neu i unrhyw aelod o deulu agosaf neu aelod y Pwyllgor Gwaith, neu i unrhyw gwmni y mae gan berson o'r fath ddiddordeb ariannol ynddo, heb ddatgelu contract o'r fath yn y Datganiad Ariannol a gyflwynir gan y Trysorydd i'r Gynhadledd Flynyddol.

2.4 Local Government Area Committees shall not be separate Accounting Units, but shall be allocated to constituencies by the National Executive Committee and treated in the same way as branches.

2.5 Council Groups shall not be separate Accounting Units, but shall be allocated to constituencies by the National Executive Committee and treated in the same way as branches.

2.6 The financial affairs of all other party bodies not controlled by an Accounting Unit shall be directly accountable to the party's national Treasurer.

2.7 No body within the party which is not designated as an Accounting Unit may operate a bank account or incur any expenditure, or receive any income, unless prior agreement has been reached with the National Treasurer concerning which Accounting Unit is to include such bank accounts, income, or expenditure in its return

3 With regard to the party nationally, all bank accounts shall be subject to the authority of the National Executive, and shall only be opened or closed by resolution of the National Executive. Bank mandates shall be agreed at the annual general meeting of the National Executive, and authorised signatories shall always include the National Treasurer.

4 No contract for the supply of goods or services shall be awarded on behalf of the party nationally except by a person or persons authorised for that purpose by the National Executive. No such contract may be awarded to any member of the National Executive or to any member of the immediate family of a member of the National Executive, or to any company in which any such person has a financial interest, without disclosure of such a contract in the Financial Statement presented by the Treasurer to Annual Conference.

5 Bydd adroddiadau'r Trysorydd i'r Pwyllgor Gwaith mewn ysgrifen, a byddant yn cynnwys manylion holl gyfrifon banc y blaid genedlaethol, yn ogystal â datganiad o'r incwm a gwariant misol ar ffurf y gyllideb flynyddol a gymeradwywyd.

5 The Treasurer's reports to the National Executive shall be in writing, and shall include details of all the national party's bank accounts, as well as a statement of the monthly income and expenditure in the format of the approved annual budget.

6 Bydd y Trysorydd yn cyflwyno datganiad ariannol i'r Gynhadledd Flynyddol fydd yn cynnwys datganiad o incwm a gwariant am y flwyddyn ariannol flaenorol a mantolen ar gyfer diwedd y flwyddyn honno, y ddau mewn ffurf a gymeradwywyd gan y Pwyllgor Gwaith a manylion unrhyw gontract a ddyfarnwyd i aelodau'r Pwyllgor Gwaith neu eu teuluoedd neu i gwmni y mae ganddynt ddiddordeb ynddo yn unol â chymal 10 y Rheolau Sefydlog hyn. Caiff y datganiad ariannol ei archwilio gan gyfrifwyr cymwysedig a benodir yn flynyddol gan y Pwyllgor Gwaith.

6 The Treasurer shall present to the Annual Conference a financial statement which shall include a statement of income and expenditure for the previous financial year and a balance sheet for the end of that year, both in a format approved by the National Executive and details of any contract awarded to members of the National Executive or their families or to a company in which they have an interest in accordance with clause 10 of these Standing Orders. The financial statement shall be audited by qualified accountants appointed annually by the National Executive.

7 Bydd y Pwyllgor Gwaith yn caniatáu i bob cyfrif banc, llyfr siec, anfoneb a chofnodion cyflogau a thaliadau costau i gael eu harchwilio gan ddau archwiliwr a benodir gan y Cyngor Cenedlaethol er mwyn sicrhau y dilynwyd y Rheolau Sefydlog hyn.

7 The National Executive shall allow all bank accounts, cheque books, invoices and records of salaries and expenses payments to be inspected by two scrutineers appointed by the National Council in order to ensure that these Standings Orders have been followed.

8 Bydd y Cyngor Cenedlaethol yn cytuno, yn flynyddol i gyllideb yn dangos yr incwm a gwariant amcanol ar blaid mewn modd y gall gytuno arno o bryd i'w gilydd.

8 The National Executive shall agree, annually, to a budget showing the projected income and expenditure for the party in such format as it shall agree from time to time.

9 Fe fydd y Pwyllgor Gwaith Cenedlaethol yn berchnogion ar, ac yn gyfrifol am reoli asedau cenedlaethol y Blaid (gan gynnwys eiddo), ac fe fydd ganddo'r pŵer i fenthyg arian ar ran y Blaid, ac i barhau gyda'r benthyciadau presennol, lle bod angen gwneud hynny i ariannu gweithgareddau'r Blaid. Fe fydd gan y Pwyllgor Gwaith Cenedlaethol y pŵer i brynu eiddo ar ran y Blaid ac i fenthyca yn erbyn yr eiddo hynny. Fe fydd gan y Pwyllgor Gwaith yr hawl i werthu eiddo'r Blaid. Os yw'r

9 The National Executive shall be responsible for the ownership and management of the party's national assets (including property), shall have the power to borrow money on behalf of the party, and to continue existing borrowing, where necessary to do so in order to finance the party's activities. The National Executive shall have the power to buy property on behalf of the party and give a charge over the party's property for the purpose of borrowing. The National Executive shall have

eiddo yn cynrychioli dros 10% o werth asedau sefydlog y Blaid, fe fydd angen i'r Pwyllgor Gwaith osod cynnig ger bron y Cyngor Cenedlaethol i werthu'r eiddo, a derbyn cydsyniad y Cyngor cyn gwerthu.

the power to sell property on behalf of the Party. If the property represents more than 10% of the value of the Party's fixed assets, the National Executive shall propose a motion to sell the property to National Council, and receive Council's agreement before selling.

Context	Content
Extract from a letter sent from the Electoral Commission to Reform UK (formerly Brexit Party) sent on 5th Jan 2021.	**Your party's financial scheme and constitution** Thank you for also providing revised copies of your constitution and financial scheme. We will review these to make sure that nothing in them would hinder your compliance with PPERA. We will contact you in due course with our view on this.

E-mail

RE: 2021-03-31 Refor...

Sent Date 21/05/2021 13:01

E-mail

From	Partyreg	**Cc**	
To	Mehrtash A'zami; Mehrtash A'Zami	**Bcc**	
Subject	RE: 2021-03-31 Reform UK - Updated constitution and scheme CCM:0488030		

Dear Mehrtash,

We confirm receipt of your amended constitution on 17 May 2021.

We will now assess it against the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA).

At this point we cannot confirm whether or not it will be approved.

We will contact you again once we have made a decision. The final decision is taken by the Director of Regulation.

Kind regards

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Mehrtash A'zami [redacted]@reformparty.uk>
Sent: 17 May 2021 08:56
To: Partyreg <Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: Re: 2021-03-31 Reform UK - Updated constitution and scheme CCM:0488030

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for drawing our attention to clause 5.2.1 about the leader name. Here is the amended version.

Many thanks and with kind regards

Mehrtash A'Zami

MSc (Econ), FCCA, Chartered MCSI

Treasurer, Reform UK

[redacted]@reformparty.uk

Image removed by sender. Image removed by sender.

On Tue, 4 May 2021 at 10:45, Partyreg <Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk> wrote:

Dear Mehrtash,

I am writing to you further to your application to register an updated constitution and financial scheme.

Before we take a final decision on the application, we would ask that you amend your submitted constitution to correct a factual inaccuracy.

Provision 5.2.1.2 names Nigel Paul Farage as Leader of the party. As Mr Farage is no longer the registered leader of the party, we would ask that you amend this provision.

You may wish to consider removing specific named references to officers of the party in your constitution, as any officer changes then result in your constitution not being an accurate reflection of the structure and organisation of your party.

You can either submit an amended constitution to us through PEF Online, and by attaching a word doc/PDF in an email to partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk

If you have any questions about this email, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Partyreg
Sent: 30 April 2021 11:31

To: 'Mehrtash A'zami' [redacted]**@thebrexitparty.org>**
Subject: 2021-03-31 Reform UK - Updated constitution and scheme CCM:0488030

Dear Mehrtash,

Thank you for your email and apologies for the delay in responding.

We confirm receipt of your new constitution and financial scheme on 31 March 2021.

We will now assess it against the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA).

At this point we cannot confirm whether or not it will be approved.

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.

As part of the assessment process, we may ask you to demonstrate how the party has adopted its scheme. For example, you may be asked about what procedures are in place to deliver the obligations set out in the scheme.

Otherwise, we will contact you again once we have made a decision. The final decision is taken by the Director of Regulation.

In the meantime, you can find guidance in relation to registering and maintaining a party on our website.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Mehrtash A'zam [redacted]**@thebrexitparty.org>**
Sent: 31 March 2021 12:08
To: Partyreg <Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]**@reformparty.uk>**
Subject: ReformUK party Constitution and Financial Scheme

Dear [redacted]

I trust all is well with you and colleagues.

I just left a message on your voicemail about our Party's Constitution and Financial Scheme. I have just noticed that the versions of these two documents on the ElCom website are the wrong ones!

As you may recall, last November when we started the process of changing the party name to Reform UK, we had to submit our amended Constitution and Financial Scheme to reflect the new name etc; and I sent the two documents to you on 5th November and 20tth November respectively. At the time there was some problem on the website in that I could not upload them directly to the website and you kindly offered to see that they would get uploaded.

I am attaching both documents herewith again for your attention and please do advise what needs to be done to rectify the position to replace them.

Separately, please note that [redacted] is dealing with the two matters of: Party descriptions, and the notification of the change of the leader.

Much thanks in advance for your help and I look forward to hearing from you.

KInd regards

Image removed by sender.

Mehrtash A'Zami

MSc (Econ), FCCA, Chartered MCSI

Treasurer, The Brexit Party

[redacted]@thebrexitparty.org

Image removed by sender.

Image removed by sender.

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--

Registered Office: 83 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0HW, United Kingdom

The Brexit Party Limited, registered in England & Wales No. 11694875

Promoted by [redacted] on behalf of The Brexit Party, at 83 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0HW

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--

Registered Office: 83 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0HW, United Kingdom

The Brexit Party Limited, registered in England & Wales No. 11694875

Promoted by [redacted] on behalf of The Brexit Party, at 83 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0HW

Image removed
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intended recipient of this email, you must neither take any action based upon its contents nor copy or show it to anyone.

Please contact the sender if you believe you have received this email in error.

Reform UK
83 Victoria Street, London, UK, SW1H 0HW
Company number 11694875 | Registered in England and Wales

Promoted by [redacted]

Regarding 2021-03-31 Reform UK - Updated constitution and scheme

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)
~WRD000.jpg	825
image001.jpg	393

1 - 2 of 2 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason Sent

[redacted]

E-mail

2021-04-06 Reform U...

Sent Date 04/06/2021 12:37

E-mail

From	Partyreg	Cc	
To	Mehrtash A'zami; Mehrtash A'Zami	Bcc	
Subject	2021-04-06 Reform UK - Application decision CCM:0488092		

Dear Mehrtash,

Approval of new constitution and financial scheme

I write to inform you that we have approved your party's new financial scheme, which you submitted to us on 31 March 2021, and your new constitution, which you submitted to us on 17 May 2021.

Future amendments to your constitution

To remain a registered party, every year your party must:

confirm your party's registered details are correct

pay a £25 registration fee.

As well as this, you must also provide us with updates to your party's constitution if any have been made since your last renewal. It is therefore very important that you continue to provide us with any updates to your party's constitution.

New constitutions must be approved by us. We will assess any revised constitution that you provide.

Future amendments to your scheme

This scheme which we have approved refers to you, the party's treasurer, by name. If a new person becomes the registered treasurer for the party then the party should provide us with an updated scheme to reflect this change.

New financial schemes must be approved in writing by us. We will assess any revised financial scheme that you provide.

Our duty to maintain the register

We have a duty under PPERA to maintain the registers of political parties as well as to monitor, and take all reasonable steps to secure, compliance with the rules for political parties set out in PPERA.

In accordance with that duty we may conduct reviews of the registers to determine whether parties should remain on them.

A party may not be registered unless it has adopted a scheme which sets out the arrangements for regulating its financial affairs for the purposes of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). A party's financial scheme must do so accurately. It must also be consistent with the party's constitution.

Should it come to our attention that the party is not operating in accordance with its scheme and thereby fails to adopt it, or the scheme does not continue to set out the party's financial reporting arrangements accurately, this may also give rise to such a review.

The party will normally be advised of any such review.

Please get in touch if you have any further queries about this message. You can find guidance in relation to registering and maintaining a party on our website here.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

Regarding	2021-03-31 Reform UK - Updated constitution and scheme
Owner	[redacted]
Keywords	
Duration	**Priority** Normal
Due	
Category	**Sub-Category**

PEF Directorate Categories

PEF Parent Category	**PEF Category**

Attachments

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

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

0 - 0 of 0 (0 selected) Page 1

Status Reason **Sent**

REFORM UK

AMENDING CONSTITUTION AND FINANCIAL SCHEME

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Decision and Approval Board comments

Applicant party name: Reform UK

Application type: Updated constitution and financial scheme

Relevant register: GB (England, Scotland, Wales)

Application details and recommendation	**Decision and Approval Board comments**
Constitution (**A**) Financial scheme (**A**)	**Decision (please add initials and date):** [redacted] – 04/05/21 – I am not at this stage making a final decision. This is because I would like us please to ask the party to supply a copy of the constitution which is updated with the correct leader's name. We should also advise them that they make want to remove this sentence. It is not material and means that their constitution will be incorrect every time they change their leader. If they supply a version with an updated leader name or removed sentence, and no other changes, then I will approve it. I am not minded to refuse it on the issue of the officer change alone. While the constitution may not have the full detail we would prefer to see, there is nothing in it that contradicts or is not compliant with PPERA. [redacted] – 23/05/21 – I approve the constitution and financial scheme.

Recommendation of Registration Team member

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

Constitution	Link	**A**	Sets out the structure and organisation of the party.
Financial scheme	Link	**A**	Sets out the financial arrangements and has been adopted.

[redacted]

21 May 2021

Registration Team member assessment

Applicant party information

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

Application history

Link to application docs	Financial Scheme, Constitution, Email	
Part of the register	GB (England, Scotland, Wales)	
Date first lodged	**Date considered complete**	**Date published for comment**
31 March 2021	17 May 2021	N/A

4. The party updated their constitution and financial scheme to reflect their change of name from The Brexit Party to Reform UK.
5. The party have also made a number of changes to provisions of the constitution.
6. The party provided a copy of their updated constitution and scheme by email.
7. We wrote to the party on 04 May 2021 asking them to correct a factual inaccuracy in their constitution which referred to the previously registered Leader of the party by name.[1]
8. The party provided an updated by email on 17 May 2021.

[redacted]

Application form

Recommendation	**Approve**
Summary reason	Authorised properly.

9. I **am** satisfied that the application has been properly authorised.
    a. The updates were provided and authorised by email.[2]

[2] [redacted]

Constitution

Link to constitution subject of application		Link to currently registered constitution
Constitution		Constitution
Recommendation	**Approve**	
Equality Act issue identified	**No**	
Summary reason	Sets out the structure and organisation of the party in sufficient detail.	

10. The proposed constitution contains substantial changes from the currently registered constitution.
11. As such, I have completed a full assessment of the document.
12. Paragraph 5(1)(a), Schedule 4 of PPERA prescribes that a party must submit with their application to be registered a copy of their constitution. Section 26(9) of PPERA says that a constitution is the document or documents by which the structure and organisation of the party is determined. Accordingly, the constitution must set out sufficient detail to show the structure and organisation of the party.
13. In my view the constitution **does** show the structure and organisation of the party.

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	**Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.**
Summary and recommendation.	**I recommend approving the constitution, which sets out the structure and organisation of the party in sufficient detail.**
The constitution should reflect which register the party are applying to register in.	14. **The constitution does not set out which register the party are registered on.** 15. 4b lists elections that the party intend to contest within the United Kingdom. 16. Accordingly, the party are registered in all of Great Britain.
The party's aims and objectives.	17. The objectives of the party are set out in section 3 of the constitution.

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	**Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.**
A reference to an intention to stand candidates and at which elections.	18. Provision 4b sets out the elections in which the party intend to stand candidates.
The candidate selection process (or at least a statement that the party will have one).	19. Section 6 of the constitution sets out the candidate selection process.
The structure of the party and who is responsible for managing the party, including the responsibility of the party officers, the terms of office and procedure for change of those officers.	20. The party also exists as a limited company.[3] 21. The party has a board consisting of the Party Leader, Treasurer, Secretary, and further members appointed by the Leader (5.3). 22. The Board shall be responsible for the management of the Party (5.4). 23. The current leader of the Party is Richard Tice. Upon his resignation, death or incapacity the next leader and all subsequent leaders shall be such person as is elected by the Board by a simple majority (5.2.1.2). 24. The members of the party shall be shareholders in the company, appointed by the Leader (5.1.1). 25. Upon the resignation or expulsion of any Member, that Member shall transfer their share to such person as the Leader shall nominate (5.1.2). 26. All officers of the Party must be Members before they can be appointed (5.1.3). 27. The Treasurer shall be such person as shall be appointed from time to time by the Leader (5.2.3). 28. The Nominating Officer shall be such person as shall be appointed from time to time by the Leader (5.2.5).
How the party will make and record decisions, as well as any other governance arrangements. For example the frequency, timing and	29. The Board shall meet at its own discretion. Meetings shall be chaired by the Leader or, in his absence, by the Convenor (Party Chair) (5.5).

[3] https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/11694875

Topics we expect a party to include in their constitution	Where this is outlined in the constitution, or how this is met.
type of meetings and the quorum for meetings.	
If the party has membership, and if so the process and rules governing that membership.	30. The Members of the Party shall be the shareholders in the company, appointed by the Leader (5.1.1). 31. All directors and officers of the Party must be Members before they can be appointed (5.1.3). 32. Members of the public who support the aims and objectives of the Party may become Registered Supporters (8.1).
How the constitution can be changed and the process for dissolution of the party.	33. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed at any time and shall be adopted if approved by the Leader and a majority of the Board (8).
That the party have adopted its financial scheme / The constitution must also be consistent with a party's financial scheme	34. The board has responsibility for managing party funds (5.4). 35. The Treasurer is a member of the board (5.3.1.2). I am therefore satisfied that the board holding responsibility for management of party would not be in conflict with the Treasurer holding overall responsibility for financial compliance of the party.
Equality Act consideration	36. I **have not** identified any issues in the legislation relating to equalities legislation.

Financial scheme

Link to financial scheme subject of application	Link to currently registered financial scheme
Financial Scheme	Financial scheme
Recommendation **Approve**	
Summary reason	

37. Pursuant to section 26 of PPERA, a party may not be registered unless it has adopted a scheme which sets out the arrangement for regulating the financial affairs of the party for the purposes of PPERA.
38. I am of the view that the scheme **does** set out the arrangements for regulating the financial affairs of the party of the purposes of PPERA.
39. Based on the information available to me, I am of the view that the party **has adopted** the scheme.
40. The party's financial year end **does** match the financial year end indicated on the application form.

The Electoral Commission

Subject: Ongoing Registration requirements of Reform UK

FAO: Regulatory Support ahead of meeting with Reform UK

Briefing note:

1. **Updated party constitution**

As per numerous news reports and the party's own social media accounts, Reform UK's proposed updated constitution was ratified by party members at the recent party conference held from 20-21 September 2024. The party have since added a document to their website which can be viewed here and is different to the constitution held by the Commission, approved in 2021.

From a registration perspective, where we are made aware of a party updating their constitution, and in this instance we can be satisfied that threshold has clearly been met, it becomes a statutory requirement that this updated document be submitted alongside the party's annual renewal.

In short, Reform UK's next renewal will not be treated as compliant, unless it is submitted alongside, or we have already been in receipt of, an updated constitution.

As such, in any conversation regarding their updated constitution, it must be made clear to the party that there is a tangible impact on the party's registration status, should they fail to submit one.

For reference, the party's next renewal deadline is **31 January 2025**.

It should also be noted that, the party's renewal is not contingent on the constitution being deemed compliant, just that it be submitted alongside. If the eventual document is deemed to not be PPERA-compliant, the party's renewal will still have been pushed back another year.

From: [redacted]
To: Registration team
Subject: RE: In the News - Wednesday 21 August 2024
Date: 21 August 2024 10:36:48
Attachments: image001.png

Hi team,
Out of interest, please see the Reform UK article about their structure. I believe this was mentioned in a team meeting a few months ago. This may have implications on their constitution.
Thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 10:15 AM
To: All EC Staff including board [redacted] Commissioners Protected [redacted]
Subject: In the News - Wednesday 21 August 2024

In the News — The Electoral Commission

Closed investigations

Daily Mail, Nation.Cymru, Glasgow Times, and Press & Journal (print only) report on part of the Commission's regular update of concluded investigations that was published yesterday. The articles focus on the penalties issued to the Liberal Democrats for multiple late reported donations.

Reform UK

The Mirror reports that Paul Oakden has been asked to leave as Reform UK's CEO as part of a party restructure, and that his share has been transferred to Nigel Farage. A party spokesperson said: "As part of the process of professionalising the party, we have restructured the organisation. The CEO position has been sunset. The party will be rapidly building a branch structure across the country and standing thousands of candidates in local elections next year."

[redacted]
The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: PRESS QUERY - URGENT: Comment on Reform UK change
Date: 27 September 2024 15:39:33

Many thanks for pulling this together [redacted] and for clearing [redacted] I'll issue to the journalist.
Thanks,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 27 September 2024 3:01 PM
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: PRESS QUERY - URGENT: Comment on Reform UK change

Hi [redacted]
1000 apologies for the delay, see below which has been approved by [redacted]:
__STARTS__
Under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA), a party must provide a constitution that sets out the structure and organisation of the party, and we have published guidance for parties on the topics we expect a constitution to include. It is ultimately though for a party to choose how to structure itself, so long as it still complies with the relevant legislation. Parties may also change their structure and update their constitution after registration.
PPERA does not prevent a party from also being a company. Where PPERA does not specify the rights of party members, this is therefore a matter for the party to determine.
Parties may also be subject to other laws, such as company law, and have structures in place to meet these requirements. Our remit within this is to consider how any structures affect the ability of a party to meet the requirements under electoral law.
The Electoral Commission's remit extends to assessing party applications against the statutory tests set out in relevant law. Any changes to the law and to the Commission's remit are a matter for Parliament.
Regarding parties following their own constitutions, the Commission's role extends so far as to determine whether the structure set out in any document is consistent with electoral law and allows the party to comply with various statutory requirements at time of registration. Any concerns as to whether a party's constitution is being followed or not is a matter to raise with the party themselves.
__ENDS__
Kind regards,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 26 September 2024 10:09 AM

To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: PRESS QUERY - URGENT: Comment on Reform UK change

Just bringing this one to the top of inboxes this morning as would be good to get out the door today – let me know if you have any thoughts?

Thanks,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 24 September 2024 5:15 PM
To [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: PRESS QUERY - URGENT: Comment on Reform UK change

Hi [redacted]

As there isn't a strict deadline, I'll get back to you/[redacted] on Thursday.

Cheers,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 24 September 2024 4:16 PM
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted] [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: PRESS QUERY - URGENT: Comment on Reform UK change

Hi again, realised you're both at an away day! There's not a strict deadline for this, so just looping in [redacted] as I'm on leave from tomorrow.

Thanks

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]
Sent: 24 September 2024 1:24 PM
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: PRESS QUERY - URGENT: Comment on Reform UK change

Hi both,

Thanks for the help with this! We've had another query about Reform UK on the same issue which I've just added here:

"Reform UK announced a new Constitution at their recent conference, that was pretty much the same as the 2021 Constitution.

Can I ask a general question, more for understanding, not for a news item (feel free to respond saying it is just for advice)

When you have a party that comes to you with a constitution, that says the legal entity will be a Limited Liability Company, should part of what is agreed with the Electoral Commission be an agreement around the ownership of the party ?

The 2021 Reform constitution says that the members of the party are the shareholders, the updated version does show a more typical member structure.

Should there be changes in the Electoral Commission vetting to ensure that isn't allowed going forward ?

Also, if I have a concern that party has operated in a way that is not to the constitution, what should I do ?

This isn't meant to be criticism of the Electoral Commission, but I do have concern in what I see from Reform UK."

I've pulled from our previous response, but just tweaked it below this email to reply to this. Just checking if you had any thoughts or changes? Also if we have any remit if a party is not operating as per their constitution?
Thanks!
[redacted]
//
Response:
The rules for registering a political party are set out in electoral law, specifically the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). When Reform UK applied to register we assessed its constitution and were satisfied it met the legal requirements.
A party must provide a constitution that sets out the structure and organisation of the party, and we have published guidance for parties on the topics we expect a constitution to include. It is ultimately though for a party to choose how to structure itself, so long as it still complies with the relevant legislation. Parties may also change their structure and update their constitution after registration.
If a party makes changes to their constitution, they are required to submit these changes to the Commission, and we will assess any revised constitution against the statutory requirements.
[redacted]
The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 20 September 2024 11:53 AM
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: PRESS QUERY - URGENT: Comment on Reform UK change
Looks good to me!

[redacted] let's go with the two paragraphs below.
Kind regards,
[redacted]
The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 20 September 2024 11:30 AM
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: RE: PRESS QUERY - URGENT: Comment on Reform UK change

Hi both,
I've tried to keep it as simple as possible and basically used the start and end of [redacted] draft below. Grateful if you could give it a sense check [redacted] as I'm about to go into a meeting.
The rules for registering a political party are set out in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). A party must provide a constitution that sets out the structure and organisation of the party, and we have published guidance for parties on the topics we expect a constitution to include. It is ultimately though for a party to choose how to structure itself, so long as it still complies with the relevant legislation. Parties may also change their structure and update their constitution after registration.
If a party makes changes to their constitution, they are required to submit these changes to the Commission, and we will assess any revised constitution against the statutory requirements.
[redacted]
The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: Party Reg <Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 20 September 2024 11:17 AM
To [redacted] on [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [redacted]
[redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: PRESS QUERY - URGENT: Comment on Reform UK change

Hi [redacted]
I've made some amends below in red.
[redacted] can you review and sign off?
STARTS
The rules for registering a political party are set out in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). PPERA 26(9) requires that a party provide a constitution that sets out the structure and organisation of the party, and while our guidance sets out the topics we expect a constitution to include, this is not an exhaustive list, and indeed there are myriad ways that a party may choose to structure itself that still allow it to comply with the relevant legislation.
If a party makes changes to their constitution, they are required to submit these changes to the Commission to ensure it is compliant with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). This is done alongside our Public Sector Equality duty. We consider our Public Sector Equality Duty with every

application submitted to us.
As the registrar of political parties our role is to consider applications against the criteria set out in electoral law. PPERA does not specify how a party should structure itself and it is ultimately for a party to decide how it wishes to operate and what rights its members have. Parties are free to structure and re-structure themselves as they see fit, and we will assess any revised constitution for its continued compatibility with the relevant legislation.
ENDS
Kind regards,
[redacted]
The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted] @electoralcommission.org.uk>
Sent: 20 September 2024 10:43 AM
To: Party Reg <Partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: FW: URGENT: Comment on Reform UK change

Hi all,
We've received a request for comment about Reform UK announcing that Nigel Farage is giving up ownership and they will adopt a new constitution.
They asked if its possible to overhaul a party system and if there will be any problems, and I have just pulled something together below. I can't see any existing or previous lines for this kind of query, so do let me know if I'm incredibly wrong!
Their deadline is COP today, also.
Thanks
[redacted]
//
When a party registers with the Commission, they must also provide a constitution that sets out the structure and organisation of the party. If a party makes changes to their constitution, they will need to submit these changes to the Commission to ensure it is compliant with the law.
As the registrar of political parties our role is to consider applications against the criteria set out in electoral law. This is done alongside our Public Sector Equality duty. We consider our Public Sector Equality Duty with every application submitted to us. To note, party constitutions are not routinely published by the Commission.
[redacted]
The Electoral Commission
[redacted]
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted] <[redacted]
Sent: 20 September 2024 8:04 AM
To: Press <press@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: URGENT: Comment on Reform UK change

Good morning,
[redacted] here, I'm a [redacted] writing a piece for Crikey News in Australia.
Nigel Farage has announced that he is giving up ownership of the party. Reform was established as a private limited company, with Farage holding the majority of shares. He said there will be a major overhaul as, for the first time, members will be able to

vote on policy motions, including to adopt a new constitution, which sets out party rules and the responsibilities of the leadership.

Under the proposed new Reform UK constitution, members will be able to remove Farage - or any other party leader - in a no-confidence vote. A vote can be triggered if 50% of all members write to the chairman requesting a motion of no confidence.

Reform MPs can also force a vote if 50 of them, or 50% of them, write to the chairman requesting one. But this only applies if there are more than 100 Reform MPs in Parliament - a high bar.

Mr Farage said all changes subject to working with the electoral commission and that it wouldn't be a problem.

I wondered whether you might be able to send me comment by EOP today (Friday) regarding whether this is possible to overhaul a party system and if so, whether there will be any "problems"?

Thanks so much and kind regards,

[redacted]

--

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Twitter: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted] Press
Subject: RE: Reform UK registration documents
Date: 27 September 2024 15:36:23

Hi [redacted]
Under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA), a party must provide a constitution that sets out the structure and organisation of the party, and we have published guidance for parties on the topics we expect a constitution to include. It is ultimately for a party to choose how to structure itself, so long as it still complies with the relevant legislation. Parties may also change their structure and update their constitution after registration.
PPERA does not prevent a party from also being a company. Where PPERA does not specify the rights of party members, this is therefore a matter for the party to determine. Parties may also be subject to other laws, such as company law, and have structures in place to meet these requirements. Our remit within this is to consider how any structures affect the ability of a party to meet the requirements under electoral law.
The Electoral Commission's remit extends to assessing party applications against the statutory tests set out in the relevant law. Any changes to the law and to the Commission's remit are a matter for Parliament.
Regarding parties following their own constitutions, the Commission's role extends so far as to determine whether the structure set out in any document is consistent with electoral law and allows the party to comply with various statutory requirements at time of registration. Any concerns as to whether a party's constitution is being followed or not is a matter to raise with the party themselves.
Thanks,

[redacted]

The Electoral Commission
electoralcommission.org.uk

From: [redacted]@harrogate-news.co.uk>
Sent: 24 September 2024 10:19 AM
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Press <press@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: Re: Reform UK registration documents

Hi [redacted] / Press Team

Reform UK announced a new Constitution at their recent conference, that was pretty much the same as the 2021 Constitution.

Can I ask a general question, more for understanding, not for a news item (feel free to respond saying it is just for advice)

When you have a party that comes to you with a constitution, that says the legal entity will be a Limited Liability Company, should part of what is agreed with the Electoral Commission be an agreement around the ownership of the party ?

The 2021 Reform constitution says that the members of the party are the

shareholders, the updated version does show a more typical member structure.

Should there be changes in the Electoral Commission vetting to ensure that isn't allowed going forward ?

Also, if I have a concern that party has operated in a way that is not to the constitution, what should I do ?

This isn't meant to be criticism of the Electoral Commission, but I do have concern in what I see from Reform UK.

Regards

[redacted]
Harrogate Informer
[redacted] harrogate-news.co.uk
[redacted]
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On 09/08/2024 10:10, [redacted] wrote:

> Hi [redacted]
> Party constitutions are not routinely published by the Commission, but the most recent version of Reform UK's constitution was released via a Freedom of Information request in 2021, which you can find here. This constitution was assessed and considered compliant.
> If you are interested in the copy of the document provided as part of their initial registration in 2019, prior to their 2021 name change, this was released via a Freedom of Information request in 2019, which you can access here. The constitution encompasses pages 10-32 of this release.
> Hope this helps,
> [redacted]
> **The Electoral Commission**
> electoralcommission.org.uk
> **From:** [redacted]@harrogate-news.co.uk>

Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 3:29 PM
To: [redacted]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Press <press@electoralcommission.org.uk>
Subject: Re: Reform UK registration documents

Hi [redacted]

No particular deadline - it would be part of an item looking at the constitution of the party/ accountability to members.

Thanks for picking it up.

Regards

[redacted]

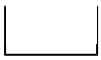
On 08/08/2024 15:26, [redacted] wrote:

> Hi [redacted]
> Confirming we've picked this up. Are you working to a deadline?
> Thanks
> [redacted]
> **The Electoral Commission**
> electoralcommission.org.uk
>
> **From:** [redacted]@harrogate-news.co.uk>
> **Sent:** Thursday, August 8, 2024 3:13 PM
> **To:** Press <press@electoralcommission.org.uk>
> **Subject:** Reform UK registration documents
>
> Hi,
>
> Is it possible to request copies of the documents submitted by Reform UK when they registered with you as a party.
>
> Am particularly interested in their Constitution Document.
>
> is it possible to request a copy of that document, and any others that may be available ?
>
> Regards
>
> --
> [redacted]
> [redacted]
> Harrogate Informer
> [redacted]harrogate-news.co.uk
> [redacted]
> To submit a news item online see: Submit Your News

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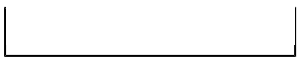






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[redacted]
[redacted]
Harrogate Informer
[redacted] harrogate-news.co.uk
t: [redacted]
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Context	Content
Extract of an email sent on 25 September 2024 by Reform UK official to Electoral Commission staff.	Dear [redacted] I'd like to introduce myself as the new [redacted] of Reform UK. Having recently hosted [redacted] and [redacted] at the Reform conference I was hoping to meet you in person. We'd also very much like to discuss how we can work with the Electoral Commission to change our constitution. Would you be available on Tuesday or Wednesday next week with me, Mehrtash and [redacted] (our [redacted]). Very happy to come to your offices. Best, [redacted]
Extract of an email sent on 26 September 2024 by Electoral Commission staff to Reform UK in response to the previous email (see above).	Hi [redacted] Nice to meet you. Apologies for the slight delay in responding. Unfortunately we cannot do an in-person meeting next Tuesday or Wednesday but if would be happy to do that on Thursday or at some point the following week. We can do virtual on Tuesday or Wednesday if that would suit you. If necessary we can pick up the conversation around the constitution prior to that point. Kind regards, [redacted] The Electoral Commission

	electoralcommission.org.uk
Extract of an email from the Reform UK Treasurer to Electoral Commission staff on 17 September 2024.	The Constitution I await confirmation from the Party leadership if there are any planned changes to the constitution and I will revert back to you if there are any changes to the Constitution as soon as I learn the decision of the leadership on this matter. With kind regards Mehrtash A'Zami MSc (Econ), FCCA, Chartered MCSI Treasurer, Reform UK [redacted]@reformparty.uk

Context	Content
An email sent from the Commission to Reform UK on Friday 14 June 2024.	From: Partyreg Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 2:14 PM To: [redacted]@reformparty.uk' [redacted]@reformparty.uk> Cc: [redacted]@reformparty.uk' [redacted]@reformparty.uk>; 'PartySecretary@reformparty.uk' <PartySecretary@reformparty.uk> Subject: Reform UK (NI) - Receipt of application - SEEKING FURTHER INFORMATION CCM:0594310 Importance: High Clarification on the GB party constitution We note that the submitted constitution represents a substantially more detailed version than the currently held version of your GB party's constitution. We note there are significant changes to the party's definition of membership, as well as numerous changes to the party's internal processes. A party is required to provide both a constitution and financial scheme as part of its registration and is required to maintain them as necessary. If it is the case that significant changes have been made to your GB party's constitution in line with the proposed constitution for your Northern Ireland party, an updated version of this document must be submitted to us for assessment and approval. Section 32(3) sets out a party's requirement to submit any change occurring in the party's constitution alongside their annual confirmation of registered details. As such, if it is the case

	that the party has updated its constitution this updated version must be submitted alongside the party's next annual renewal. The party's next annual renewal is due on 07 January 2025, but we would encourage you to provide us with any constitution updates well ahead of this date. After the general election, we would be happy to arrange a time to discuss and explore this matter further.