

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



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Consultation on the Electoral Commission's Codes of Practice for election spending for political parties and candidates

On 10 September we launched [a consultation](#) on Codes of Practice for election spending for political parties and candidates.

Background

Elections legislation enables us to prepare Codes of Practice about election spending for political parties and candidates. A Code of Practice is a statutory document that provides detailed practical guidance on how to comply with legal obligations.

The two Codes proposed in this consultation, one for candidate spending and the other for political party spending, will increase transparency in spending and reporting of expenses at elections. The Codes will help increase voter confidence in the system of political and election finance.

In writing these Codes we have drawn on our experience of regulating elections and reviewing spending returns. We have asked parties about their experiences and incorporated their views. We also want to gather more feedback through this consultation.

What are we aiming to do?

Our aims in preparing the Codes are:

- To provide guidance for candidates, their agents and political parties about what items of spending count towards the spending limits and are to be reported
- To provide enhanced clarity to political parties and candidates about when spending (including notional spending) should be in a candidate return and when it should be in a political party return
- To ensure that there is clarity and consistency in the reporting of spending, including digital campaigning by

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Information on and a link to the Commission's consultation, which closes on 4 December.

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What do the Codes look like?

The Codes set out what should be included in each category of spending, as well as listing what isn't included. The Codes are designed to give illustrative examples rather than an exhaustive list. We do not have the power to add extra categories of spending, only to outline what is covered by the current categories.

How can I contribute?

The consultation paper seeks views on our Codes of Practice for parties and candidates and is available on our [website](#).

We want to hear from as many people as possible. Please send your response to: Codes@electoralcommission.org.uk. The consultation closes on **Tuesday 4 December**.

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