

Dual candidacy at the National Assembly for Wales election 2016

This factsheet is for candidates who are standing for election in both a constituency and a region at the National Assembly for Wales election in May 2016. We call this “dual candidacy”.

What is dual candidacy?

Dual candidacy has been re-instated by the Wales Act 2014. It means that a candidate can stand as both a constituency candidate and a regional candidate simultaneously, as long as the constituency sits within the region where they are standing.

If you are a dual candidate it is important that you understand how the rules apply to you. You should also read the guidance for [candidates and agents](#), and [political parties](#) on our [website](#).

There are different regulated periods spending limits and reporting requirements for different types of candidates and for political parties.

Dual candidates need to be aware of which regulated period, spending

limit and reporting requirements apply to both parts of their campaign.

If you are a dual candidate standing in a constituency and on a **regional party list**

You must be aware of the regulated period, spending and donation rules and reporting requirements for both candidates and political parties.

The regulated period

Constituency candidates

We call the time when the spending limits and rules apply, the regulated period.

The regulated period for constituency candidates begins **the day after** you officially become a candidate, and ends on polling day, 5 May 2016.

The earliest date you can officially become a constituency candidate is the date the National Assembly for Wales is dissolved. This is expected on 6 April 2016.

Nominations for candidacy open on 31 March. The earliest date that the candidate spending and donation rules can apply to you is on 7 April,

the day after the dissolution of the National Assembly of Wales. If you are nominated between 31 March - 6 April, you should follow the spending and donations rules for this period of time. Your spending during this period will not count towards your spending limit for the regulated period

Regional party list candidates

The regulated period for parties begins on 5 January 2016 and ends on polling day 5 May 2016. This regulated period applies to your regional party list campaign.

The spending limits

Constituency candidate spending limit

- £8,700 as a fixed amount, plus;
- 6p per registered elector in a borough constituency, **or**
- 9p per registered elector in a county constituency.

This spending limit applies to spending on your campaigning for the constituency seat, during the regulated period, starting on the day after you officially become a candidate and ending on polling day, 5 May 2016.

Regional party list candidates

Spending on your regional party list campaign will be party spending and is subject to the party spending limits.

The party spending limit is:

- £10,000 for each constituency the party is contesting, plus;
- £40,000 for each region the party is contesting.

This spending limit applies during the regulated period for political parties, 5 January until 5 May 2016.

Donations

Donations to constituency candidates

A donation is money, property, goods or services which are given:

- toward your candidate spending;
- without charge or on non-commercial terms;
- and has a value of **over £50**.

Anything with a value of £50 or less does not count as a donation.

Donations must be recorded and reported as part of the candidate spending and donations returns to the Returning Officer after the election.

Candidates can only accept donations of money, items or services towards their campaign spending, from certain mainly UK-based sources.

This includes donations from your own political party.

For more information on donations and permissibility for constituency candidates, please see section B in our candidate guidance [here](#).

Donations to regional party list candidates

A donation is money, property, goods or services which are given:

- toward your party spending;
- without charge or on non-commercial terms;
- and has a value of **over £500**.

Anything with a value of £500 or less does not count as a donation.

A donation to a regional party list candidate, is regarded as a donation to the party, and must be reported by the party in their quarterly donations and loans report.

For more information on donations to parties please see our guidance, [here](#).

Reporting responsibilities

You must complete a spending and donations return for the constituency candidacy.

The party is responsible for reporting all regulated campaign spending and donations that promotes your regional party list candidacy.

A regional party list candidate (including a dual candidate) must submit a declaration to the Regional Returning Officer 7 days after the party treasurer declaring that the party spending return is correct.

For more information see our party [guidance](#).

If you are a candidate standing in a constituency and an independent regional candidate

We call the time when the spending limits and rules apply, the regulated period.

The regulated period

The regulated period begins for constituency and individual regional

candidates begins **the day after** you officially become a **candidate**, and ends on polling day, 5 May 2016.

The earliest date you can officially become a candidate is the date the National Assembly for Wales is dissolved. This is expected on 6 April 2016.

Nominations for candidacy open on 31 March. The earliest date that the candidate spending and donation rules can apply to you is on 7 April, the day after the dissolution of the National Assembly of Wales. If you are nominated between 31 March - 6 April, you should follow the spending and donations rules for this period of time. Your spending during this period will not count towards your spending limit for the regulated period

For more information on becoming a candidate please see our guidance for [candidate and agents](#).

Spending limits

Constituency candidate spending limit

- £8,700 as a fixed amount, plus;
- 6p per registered elector in a borough constituency, **or**
- 9p per registered elector in a county constituency.

This spending limit applies to spending on your campaigning for the constituency seat, during the regulated period, starting on the day after you officially become a candidate and ends on polling day, 5 May 2016.

Independent regional candidate spending limit

The spending limit for an independent regional candidate is the sum of the maximum limit for each constituency in the region added together.

This spending limit applies during the regulated period for candidates, and starts on the day after you officially become a candidate and ends on 5 May 2016.

Donations

A donation is money, property, goods or services which are given:

- toward your candidate spending;
- without charge or on non-commercial terms;
- and has a value of **over £50**.

Anything with a value of £50 or less does not count as a donation.

Candidates can only accept donations of money, items or services towards their campaign spending, from certain mainly UK-based sources.

Donations must be recorded and reported as part of the candidate spending and donations returns to the Returning Officer after the election.

For more information on donations and permissibility checks, please see section B in our candidate guidance [here](#).

Reporting responsibilities

All spending and donations must be reported by the candidate or their agent.

An dual candidate standing in a constituency and as an independent regional candidate must complete separate spending and donations returns for their constituency and regional campaigns.

For more information, please see our candidate and agent [guidance](#).

Where you can find more information

You can find more information in our candidate and agent [guidance](#) for those standing for election in a constituency at the National Assembly for Wales election in 2016.

Part three of the guidance covers the spending, donations and reporting rules for candidates and agents.

For further information regarding political parties and regional party list candidates at the National Assembly for Wales election, please see our party [guidance](#).

If it's easier, you can also call us using our phone numbers below, or email us. We are here to help, so please get in touch.

Wales:

Call us on 0333 103 1929

Email us at:

infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk

Or you can visit us at:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

We welcome feedback on our guidance – just email us at pef@electoralcommission.org.uk

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