

Referendum on the UK Parliamentary voting system: Campaigner update on Royal Assent

The Parliamentary Voting Systems and Constituencies Bill received Royal Assent on 16 February 2011.

This means that the rules on campaigning at this referendum are now confirmed.

In particular, the referendum period began on 16 February, and will end when polls close on 5 May.

During this period, campaigners' spending and finance is regulated.

You must register with us if you want to spend more than £10,000 on campaigning in the referendum period.

About this update

This update covers:

- Our finalised guidance
- The designation timetable
- Future updates

Our finalised guidance

You can find our finalised guidance for campaigners on [our website](#),

As well as the guidance previously available, we have now published a specific document that sets out the spending limits and timetables for the referendum.

The guidance page also includes:

- A form to apply to register with us
- A form to apply to be a lead campaign group
- The terms and conditions for the grants to lead campaign groups
- A form to use when requesting copies of the electoral register from local electoral officers for use in your campaign
- Forms to use to appoint referendum agents and polling agents at local level

We also provide a telephone and email advice service for campaigners. Please call us on 020 7271 0616 or email us at

pef@electoralcommission.org.uk

The designation timetable

If you want to apply to be the lead campaign group for either 'Yes' or 'No' at this referendum, we must receive your completed application by the end of Tuesday 15 March.

You can find the application form at http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/105651/doc-application-pvs-lc.pdf

Under PPERA, we must make a decision on designating lead campaign groups by the end of Tuesday 29 March. We will make the decision sooner if we are able to.

Future updates

We may issue further updates during the campaign if we consider this might be helpful to campaigners.

If you do not already receive these updates by email, you can sign up by emailing us at

pef@electoralcommission.org.uk

Where you can find more information

We are always happy to give campaigners advice on how to comply with the rules.

For advice, or to sign up to receive these updates, please contact us on 020 7271 0616, or

pef@electoralcommission.org.uk, or at:

Party and Election Finance
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

You can also contact:

Scotland Office
38 Thistle Street
Edinburgh EH2 1EN
Tel: 0131 225 0200
Fax: 0131 225 0205
Textphone: 18001 0131 225 0200
infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk

Wales Office
Caradog House
1-6 Saint Andrews Place
Cardiff CF10 3BE
Tel: 029 2034 6800
Fax: 029 2034 6805
Textphone: 18001 029 2034 6800
infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk

Northern Ireland Office
Seatem House
28-32 Alfred Street
Belfast BT2 8EN
Tel: 028 9089 4020
Fax: 028 9089 4026
Textphone: 18001 028 9089 4020
infonorthernireland@electoralcommission.org.uk