

Candidate spending return for local government elections in England and Wales

You should read the related guidance before completing this form.



Who this form is for:

Candidates contesting local government elections in England or Wales, and their agents.

You will find related guidance on our:

- [Guidance page for candidates and agents](#)

Explanatory notes

Section 1 – Details of candidate and election

Please provide the details requested under this section.

You can find out the number of people registered to vote – the electorate – on the last day for publication of the notice of election from your Returning Officer.

Your spending limit is £600, plus 5p per local government elector in the ward or division in which you are standing.

For more information see our [guidance page for candidates and agents](#).

Other forms you will need:

- [Candidate's declaration](#)
- [Agent's declaration](#)

Section 2 – Details of agent

Please enter the agent's details and note that the agent should sign this form.

Section 3 – Summary of spending and worksheets

We have provided worksheets for each spending category and for the details of unpaid expenses and disputed claims within the form. Use these worksheets to enter the details of the expenses under the appropriate category. When you have totalled up the amounts under each category, please enter the totals into the summary of spending in section 3.

The totals for election spending in table 3a 'Types of payments' and table 3b 'Categories of spending' should be the same.

If your totals are not the same, you have made a mistake in your calculations. You should check the information you have provided and your calculations.



The categories of spending allocation are:

A – Advertising

This includes advertising of any nature, e.g. posters or advertisements in newspapers. It includes agency fees, design costs and any costs associated with preparing, producing and distributing advertising.

B – Unsolicited material to electors

This includes unsolicited material addressed to electors whether addressed, or not. It includes design costs and all other costs in connection with preparing, producing and distributing such material. The cost of postage should be included except for election addresses sent using a free post entitlement.

C – Transport

Transport includes hire costs but excludes the use of personal cars where no charge has been made by the owner.

D – Public meetings

This includes costs in connection with people's attendance at meetings, the hire of premises for the purposes of meetings and the provision of goods, services or facilities at meetings.

E – Agent and other staff costs

This includes payment for the services of an election agent, or anyone else, paid in connection with the candidate's election. This includes staff working on the candidate's campaign who are paid by the candidate's party.

F – Accommodation and administration

This includes the general costs of campaign office rental and utilities.

Each item of spending should be allocated to one category only. Some items will be categorised easily, but others may appear to fit more than one purpose. In these cases you must judge where to put the item.

Generally, items should be placed under the purpose they naturally fall into, e.g. the transport costs of the candidate should be included under transport even if the transport is in connection with participation at a public meeting.

For every item of spending, please give details of:

- The **item number**. The first payment reported should be '1' and then items should be numbered consecutively. Item numbers need to be unique because they are used to cross-reference with other sections of the form and the supporting invoices/receipts.
- Indicate if an **invoice** or **receipt** has been submitted. Invoices or receipts are required for all items over £20 except notional spending.
- The item or service used.
- The **name and address of the supplier** where this is not on an invoice or receipt submitted with the return.
- The **date** the invoice was paid.
- The **value** of the item.
- The **amount paid**, if this is different from the value of the item. Include nil payments where applicable.
- Indicate whether the item is either a **disputed claim** or an **unpaid claim**. You will need to provide additional information on items that are disputed or unpaid.

Please remember to indicate when you are entering a nil payment.



Unpaid claims

Use the unpaid claims worksheet to tell us more about claims that remain unpaid on the day you submit the form.

Please ensure you use the same item number to cross-reference the two entries in the different worksheets. You should include the details of the court to which you have applied, or will apply, to make a late payment.

Disputed claims

Use the disputed claims worksheet to tell us more about any claims that are disputed.

Please ensure you use the same item number to cross-reference this entry with the entry on the spending category worksheet.

Section 4 – Donations and the worksheets for reporting donations

Please record the total amount of money provided by the candidate to meet their election expenses.

You should record the total value of all donations received that were £50 or less in cash value in the box provided. You do not need to tell us any more information about these donations.

Permissible donations

Use the donations worksheet to tell us about any donations from permissible sources that are more than £50.

For each donation accepted by or on behalf of the candidate, please provide the following details:

- the full name of the donor – if it is a registered company please include the company registration number
- the address, or registered address, of the donor
- the status of the donor
- the date you received the donation
- the date you accepted the donation
- the amount (for a cash donation) or value (for a non-cash donation)
- the nature of the donation (e.g. cash, non-cash, services or discounted office space)

If the donation came from a trust, please contact us for more information on what you need to tell us.

Impermissible donations

Use the impermissible donations worksheet to tell us about any donations you have decided not to accept.

For each unidentifiable donation or impermissible donation received by or on behalf of the candidate, please provide the following details:

For more information on donations see:

- [Overview of donations to candidates](#)
- [Permissibility checks for candidates](#)

- the name of the donor unless this is not known, in which case please enter 'unknown'
- the donor's address, but if you do not know this then enter 'unknown'
- the date the donation was received
- the amount or value of the donation
- the nature of the donation (e.g. cash, non-cash, services or discounted office space)
- the date when and manner in which you returned the donation

Completing and returning this form to the Returning Officer

The agent, or the candidate if you are acting as your own agent, should complete and return the form to the Returning Officer for your electoral area. The form must be submitted within 35 calendar days after the declaration of the result.

The form must be accompanied by a declaration signed by the election agent to verify the return.

Within seven working days of submitting the spending return the agent must send a declaration signed by the candidate to verify the return.

The return and the two declarations should be marked with the same reference. Use the box on the front cover of the form to indicate the reference you are using.

Where can I get further advice?

If you have any questions about candidates' election spending you can call us on:

- England: 020 7271 0616
pef@electoralcommission.org.uk
- Wales: 020 2034 6800
infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk

Visit us at www.electoralcommission.org.uk



Important

Other forms you will need:

- [Candidate's declaration](#)
- [Agent's declaration](#)

Mark as on candidate's declaration

Return of candidate spending: Local government election in England and Wales

Section 1 Details of candidate and election

Local authority

Ward/ District

Electorate Date you became a candidate

Date of election Date election result declared

Candidate name

Registered party Spending limit £

Section 2 Details of agent

Election agent's name

Date election agent appointed

I am the agent responsible for delivering this return of candidate's expenses under the Representation of the People Act 1983

I am the candidate and I was my own election agent. I am responsible for delivering this return of candidate's expenses under the Representation of the the People Act 1983

Signature of agent _____

Date

Submit this return to the returning officer within 35 calendar days of the day the election result is declared.

It must be accompanied by a separate declaration signed by the election agent verifying this return.

Within 7 working days of submitting this return, the candidate must also submit a signed declaration verifying this return

Section 3 Summary of spending

Section 3a Types of payment

Manner of payment	£.pp
Unpaid claims	
Disputed claims	
Value of notional expenditure	
Payments made	
Total election spending	£

Section 3b Categories of spending

Purpose	£.pp
A. Advertising	
B. Unsolicited material to electors	
C. Transport	
D. Public meetings	
E. Agent and other staff costs	
F. Accommodation and administration	
Total election spending	£

Total spending for 3a should equal the total spending for 3b. If they are not equal you should check your calculations

Section 4 Donations

Please tell us about any amount of money provided by the candidate to meet election expenditure - if no money has been provided enter 0 (zero)

Total value £

Enter the total value of all donations worth up to the cash value of £50.00. No further details are required about these donations

Total value £

Total value of donations worth more than £50.00

Total value £

Total donations accepted

£

This amount should be greater than or equal to total spending - see 3a and 3b

Total impermissible donations rejected

£

