

Centre

Donation rules

Key
documents

Centre

Date these procedures came into effect: 31/12/2021

Date these procedures must be updated by: 01/01/2023

Written by: Torrin Wilkins.

Who can donate?

- Individuals making donations.
- Funding from companies or organisations.

Types of donations:

- Individual donations from members of the public either one off or on a regular basis.
- Specific funding for research or events.
- Long-term funding partnerships with us as a company or organisation. This could include research or events in the same way as specific funding but for multiple publications or events. It could also include priority invitations to events, updates on future research and close contact with our team.
- Membership of the Centrist Network which includes quarterly updates, entry to Centre events and meetings with our Director.

General rules for donations:

- We will not make donations to political parties.
- We have the right to reject or return donations, funding or financial partnerships.

Rules for smaller donations:

- Donations received by us will only go towards the running of our organisation, our campaigns, writing papers, our research or our organisations outreach efforts.
- Any donations you make to Centre need to be from your own funds and not passed on from a third party.
- If you donate more than £500 to us, you need to be on the UK electoral register. This does not include the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

Rules for all larger donations:

- The names of any donors or organisations that donate over £7,500 a year will be published in our annual yearly reports. We will also publish a full list of corporate donors, organisations that donate to us and anyone who is a member of the Centrist Network.
- Any large donations must be approved by our team just like any other type of policy or partnership.
- We may need to report your donation to the electoral commission if we become or are considered a non-party campaigner. This is usually for donations of more than £7,500 in a calendar year. The name and the value of the donation will be sent to the electoral commission and the details will be published on their website. However, the address of the person making the donation will not be made public.

Rules for donations for donations or sponsorships for events or papers:

- We must be able to withdraw from any large-scale funding.
- Donations for papers and events will only include the general area of research. The editorial control will remain with Centre to maintain our independence.
- It will be clearly shown on graphics advertising events and on papers that we have received funding from a particular organisation.
- Sponsors must be approved by our team.

Rules for the Centrist network:

- We will keep a public list of all donors who attend meetings of the Centrist Network.

“In Great Britain, permissible sources are:

- individuals registered on a UK electoral register, including overseas electors and those leaving bequests
- most UK-registered companies
- Great Britain registered political parties
- UK-registered trade unions
- UK-registered building societies
- UK-registered limited liability partnerships (LLP) that carry on business in the UK
- UK-registered friendly societies
- UK-based unincorporated associations that carry on business or other activities in the UK
- some types of trust and certain public funds

Where someone pays for the reasonable costs of an overseas visit, they are deemed to be a permissible donor”.

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/financialreporting/donations-and-loans>

“When political parties, individuals or other organisations receive a donation or loan, they have to:

- record information about the donation or loan, such as the amount and who it was from
- check the source of the donation or loan, and decide if it comes from a permissible source
- decide whether to keep or return the donation or loan, depending on its source
- report it to us, if it’s over the reportable amount or if they returned it”

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/financialreporting/donations-and-loans>

During elections:

“Non-party campaigners have to register with us if they plan to spend over a certain amount during the campaign. These amounts are:

- £20,000 in England
- £10,000 in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland

Once non-party campaigners have registered with us, they have to record their spending, and report it to us”.

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/financialreporting/campaign-spending-political-parties-and-non-party-campaigners>

During referendums:

“We regulate referendums that are taking place under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA referendums). We don't regulate other types, such as local government referendums. Campaigners can spend up to £10,000 in a PERA referendum without registering with us. If campaigners want to spend more than £10,000, they have to register with us and follow the rules on campaign spending. Campaigners have to:

- follow spend limits
- decide if they can accept donations based on who they're from
- record what they spend during the referendum campaign

After the referendum, registered campaigners have to report their spending to us in a spending return”.

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/financialreporting/campaign-spending-political-parties-and-non-party-campaigners>