



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP

*Secretary of State for Levelling up Housing &
Communities*

***Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities***

4th Floor, Fry Building
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To: Members of the Parliamentary Parties
Panel

1 September 2022

Dear Colleague,

UPRATING SPENDING LIMITS AND REVIEWING OTHER SUMS IN ELECTORAL LEGISLATION

As you will already be aware, in 2020 the Government raised spending limits to reflect inflation, for candidates at local government elections in England. At that time, the Minister for the Constitution and Devolution [announced](#) the Government's intention to review party and candidate spending limits for all other reserved polls with a view to uprating them in line with inflation, since they were last set. In real terms, there will be no changes to spending limits.

I am writing to you today, to confirm that it is the Government's intention to proceed with uprating spending limits to reflect changes in the value of money in the years since these limits were last reviewed. Many of these current limits have not been changed since they were set out over twenty years ago, with a small number being raised more recently.

This is an important action, as many of the statutory spending limits have not been uprated since they were originally set out, in some cases over twenty years ago. This impacts campaigning ability, given the inflationary costs of printing and communication, which is vital for parties and candidates to communicate their views with voters. This uplift will take into account the change to the value of money, ensuring that the limits remain consistent with the original intent of spending limits when considered by previous parliaments.

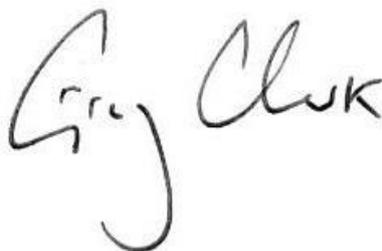
In addition to spending limits, the Government has a statutory duty under section 155 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) to review other specified sums in that Act and consider if it should uplift those sums in consequence of changes in the value of money. These specified sums relate to the control of donations and regulated transactions, including those relating to political parties. In keeping with this statutory requirement, the Government is currently considering whether to also uplift these specified sums.

Furthermore, following the appalling murder of Sir David Amess last year, legislation passed by the Scottish Parliament to exempt reasonable security expenses from inclusion within candidate spending limits was highlighted by the Electoral Commission. Violence and intimidation cannot be tolerated and should have absolutely no place in our public life. No one should feel afraid to participate in our democracy. My officials will be working in consultation with the Electoral Commission to ensure the legal framework supports this.

The Government welcomes views from the membership of the Parliamentary Parties panel in relation to both the statutory review under section 155 of PPERA and the treatment of candidate's security expenses. Please address any relevant responses to: imogen.harris@levellingup.gov.uk by 2 October 2022.

I have copied this letter to John Pullinger, Chair of the Electoral Commission. I am also copying this to the Speaker since it relates to the security of Parliamentarians.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a distinct "Clark" following.

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities