

Political Donations Overview: existing rules and what is changing

Handling instructions

- *This document is intended to support understanding of the changes proposed in the Government's Representation of the People Bill introduced on 12 February 2026 and elections strategy published on 17 July 2025. **It should not be considered formal guidance.***
- *The table presents an overview of the key steps in the donations process in these proposals. It has been simplified for ease of reference and **is not a substitute for official guidance** once legislation is finalised.*
- *The content reflects the current policy at the time of Bill introduction and is subject to amendment.*

Step 1.

Identify in what capacity are you receiving this donation, gift or hospitality.

If you are receiving a gift in a ministerial capacity, then you should follow the [Ministerial Code](#).

If you are receiving a donation in your capacity as an MP, member of a political party or as a candidate standing for election, then the donations rules referred to below may apply to you.

Step 2. What is the value?

This will tell you whether it is a donation regulated by electoral law, and when you may need to declare it in Parliament's Register of Members' Financial Interests.

Parties	MPs (or others in elected roles)	Candidates	Ministers
Under £500 – rules do not apply	Under £300 – rules don't apply	Under £50 – rules do not apply	Ministers cannot accept financial donations.
£500 or above – follow donation rules	£300 and above - declare in Members' register £500 and above - declare in Members' register and follow donation rules	£50 and above - follow donation rules	Gifts or hospitality accepted in a ministerial role must dealt with in line with the Ministerial Code.

Step 3. Check the donation is from a permissible donor

If the donation is over the relevant threshold set out above, then you must follow existing permissibility rules (unless exempt).

For example, donations from individuals are only permitted if they are on a UK electoral register. The full list of permissible donors is set out in PPERA and the Electoral Commission provides guidance on the appropriate checks.

Additional rules changes sitting alongside the steps above

4. New criteria for company donations

We are proposing to introduce stricter criteria for donations received from companies or limited liability partnerships, unless the donation is exempt**. We intend to apply this to all recipients of donations under electoral law (parties, party members, MPs, candidates, etc.)

New criteria that you (the recipient) must check:

1. Persons of Significant Control (PSCs) of the company donating:

- If there are any PSCs then they will need to meet conditions designed to ensure that majority control rests with UK electors or citizens.
- For example:
 - o If the company is majority owned by another company, it will not pass this requirement.
 - o If all PSCs are UK electors or UK citizens then the company will pass this requirement

2. Assessment of sufficient revenue

- The company or LLP donating will need to have demonstrated making sufficient revenue in the three years prior to the year in which the donation is received to justify its donation
- For example, if you have received donations totalling £50,000 from a company, the company must have demonstrated revenue of at least £50,000 within those last three years.

Assessing these criteria will require checks using information on Companies House and following the Electoral Commission's guidance. In some cases, you may need to request information from the donor company to make your assessment.

**These stricter rules do not apply if the donation is non-cash in-kind support (specifically if it is sponsorship, paid expenses, or discounted services) AND the total value of non-cash in kind donation(s) from that donor in the same calendar year is under £2,230.



5. New section 54A Declaration Requirement

If you receive donations from any type of donor that amount to **£11,180 or more** then they will need to declare whether or not they have received any benefits or sources of funding connected to their donation.

As the recipient you must check this declaration and be satisfied that it is truthful.

Declaration requirements will not apply in respect of donations to candidates.



6. New *Know Your Donor* requirements

If you receive donations from a donor of any type that amounts to £11,180 or more then you will be required to conduct enhanced due diligence in the form of “risk assessments”.

These assessments will need to consider certain factors beyond strict permissibility, such as size and nature of the donation.

The Electoral Commission will produce guidance detailing how to conduct a risk assessment.