

From: compliance@libdems.org.uk

Date: Sat, 24 Feb 2024

Subject: Compliance Training Day 24 - Are you ready for the General Election?

**COMPLIANCE
AND DATA
PROTECTION**

Liberal
Democrats

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the last weekend of the Compliance Bitesize Challenge.

Are you Ready for the General Election?



We know that there will be a general election in the next 365 days. During the regulated period, the vast majority of the work will be done by the election agent, as they are the people who are legally responsible for the campaign.

Only the election agent can spend money on the election and therefore, the treasurer cannot legally spend money.

We have already held one session for treasurers about getting GE ready and plan to run more before the General Election, so keep an eye out for the dates.

However, there are some key things to remember:

Election Agent Bank Accounts

Election agents need to have their own bank account. This should be a personal account and not a local party one. This is because only they can legally incur expenditure.

Transferring Money

It is up to every local party to decide how they want to do this. Do they want to transfer the money in lump sums or in one go? This depends on how your local party operates and if the treasurer is the election agent.

The local party has to trust the agent, and in some cases, this could involve significant five figure sums, but there should be some checks and balances in place.

Long Campaign

If Parliament sits for 55 months, there will be a long campaign period for local parties. This will place a legal maximum on local candidate expenditure from 17th July. If we get past 2nd May without a General Election, we will plan training sessions for May and June about how to deal with the Long Campaign.

Declaring Donations

A donation should only be declared once, so if it is received by the local party, they should declare it. If received by the candidate, it should be declared on their election expenses return. If money is returned to the local party at the end of the election, this doesn't need to be declared.

Our guidance is that **all donations should be declared through the local party**, via their normal PPERA monthly reporting.

Post Election

We recommend to all election agents that post election, they let an officer of the local party review their accounts.

There is a lot to do for the General Election and we will be there to support you every step of the way.

You can get in touch with us by emailing: compliance@libdems.org.uk

Best wishes,



Kerry Buist (she/her)
Head of Compliance and
Governance
Liberal Democrats

You can find resources from the recent Treasurer Training Day by
clicking here:

[View Resources](#) →

And you can view all the emails from the February Compliance
Challenge so far by clicking here:

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Published and promoted by Mike Dixon on behalf of the [Liberal Democrats](#), 1 Vincent Square, London, SW1P 2PN.