

Code of Conduct

The Party considers that the actions and behaviour of approved and licensed candidates will be subject to greater scrutiny than that of ordinary members of the public or of the Party.

Approved and licensed candidates should be aware that their actions in both their public and their private life might have an adverse impact not only on their own reputation but also on that of the Party. Behaviour which is unlawful, dishonest, deceitful, violent or threatening in their public or private life may constitute bringing the Party into disrepute, which is grounds for permanent removal from the list of approved candidates under section 19.3 of the Federal Constitution.

In order to qualify for inclusion on the list of approved candidates, members must sign up to the following code of conduct. Failing to follow this code of conduct will constitute *prima facie* grounds for removal from the list of approved candidates. In addition, if elected, failing to follow this code of conduct may result in the Whip being withdrawn.

1. You must treat others with respect, and must not bully or intimidate any Party member, member of Party staff, member of Parliamentary staff, Party volunteer or member of the public.
2. You must act in such a way as to promote the values of the Liberal Democrats and must not act in a way that is contrary to the interests or values of the Party. This includes your use of language, whether spoken or written, and content on digital or social media platforms.
3. You must complete any declarations of private interest that the Party requires, and, if elected, must complete the Official Register of Interests or equivalent as supplied to Members and any declaration required by the Electoral Commission.
4. You must at all times comply with the current versions of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and the Representation of the People Act 1983 and any other relevant legislation and must provide information regarding expenses or donations as required by the Party.
5. You must at all times comply with the Party's data protection and data security policies when dealing with any data to which you may be given access by the Party.
6. You must give consent to and provide the details necessary for the Party to undertake (or to authorise an approved third party to undertake) an audit of your social media profile when requested.
7. You must abide by the Party's internal selection and election rules, and by any other Code of Conduct that has been signed up to by the Party.
8. If asked by your state party, you must complete a post-election review after each general election, whether or not you stood as a candidate.

9. You must appoint an election agent who has been trained and certified by the Party, provided that a suitable person is available and willing to undertake the role.
10. If asked by your state party, you must agree a Candidate Compact with the local party (or parties) within three months of being selected as the prospective parliamentary candidate for a seat.
11. If elected, and if asked by your state party, you must make a reasonable contribution towards ongoing party activity, which will include a financial element, the exact level to be determined following the election by agreement with the relevant regional party and by reference to any relevant guidance then in force.
12. You must signify your agreement to this Code of Conduct to the Returning Officer at the start of any selection process in which you participate.
13. You must not bring, or risk bringing, the Party into disrepute.

Eligibility Criteria

Certain categories of people are not legally eligible to stand for Parliament. It is the responsibility of Parliamentary Candidates to ensure that they are legally eligible to stand for election to the House of Commons or European Parliament. Details of the relevant Acts of Parliament can be found via the following link to the [Office of Public Sector Information website](#).

The following is a non-exhaustive list of the categories of people who are identified as ineligible to stand for Parliament in statute or common law. In some cases although a person may be legally ineligible to stand he or she may be eligible to become an approved candidate (e.g. if he or she is currently under 18 but is likely to turn 18 before nominations close for the next General Election). Therefore, if any of the following apply or may apply to you, **you must contact the Candidates' Office with full details**. Failure to do so will constitute prima facie grounds for removal from the list of Approved Candidates.

People who are not eligible to stand for Parliament (source: The Agent's Manual 2007 ed.)

- **Aliens**^[1] - Westminster Parliamentary candidates must be citizens of the UK, the Republic of Ireland or the Commonwealth. European Parliamentary candidates must be citizens of the EU resident in the UK.
- **Infants*** - people under the age of 18.
- **Peers of the Realm** - members of the current House of Lords (with the exception of Irish Peers). Ex-members of the House of Lords **are** entitled to stand for the House of Commons.
- **Bankrupts*** - if they are currently un-discharged bankrupts, or if they were discharged less than five years ago.
- **Convicts*** - currently detained at Her Majesty's pleasure, or at large when they should be detained!

- **Office Holders** - civil servants, members of the armed forces, police, those holding certain judicial offices, and members of named tribunals, commissions and bodies.
- **Disqualified** - by reason of having been convicted of corrupt practices and banned from standing.

Other legal issues

Many standard election law reference works contain information suggesting that people who are “Deaf and Dumb”¹ cannot stand for Parliament. This is an archaic term that is now generally considered offensive and is very difficult to define in modern terms. In addition, the relevant area of common law is a complex one that may be in conflict with subsequent Disability and Human Rights legislation. If you are concerned that this may affect you, please contact the Candidates’ Office for further advice. **This will not affect your eligibility to become an approved candidate.**

Personal Disclosure

In addition to signing the code of conduct, and confirming that they are legally eligible to stand for election the Party has identified the following specific circumstances which applicants for approval are required to disclose on application. If any of the following apply or may apply to you, **you must contact the Candidates’ Office with full details.** This will not necessarily affect your application for approval, but failure to disclose any relevant information will constitute prima facie grounds for removal from the list of Approved Candidates.

1. You have at any time been convicted of any offence by any court, whether civil or military, in the UK or elsewhere.
2. You have at any time, in the UK or elsewhere, been censured, disciplined or publicly criticised by any professional body to which you belong or belonged, or been dismissed on disciplinary grounds from any office or employment, or been refused entry to any profession or occupation.
3. You have at any time been adjudicated bankrupt by a court in the UK or elsewhere.
4. You have or have ever had any Court judgements against you.
5. You have, in connection with the formation or management of any body corporate, been adjudged by a court in the UK or elsewhere, civilly or criminally liable for any fraud, misfeasance or other misconduct towards such a body, or any members thereof, or to persons with whom the body corporate had dealings.
6. Any body corporate with which you were associated as a director or principal shareholder, in the UK or elsewhere, has been compulsorily wound up or made any compromise or

¹ Please note that these are the legal terms as defined in standard election law reference works, which is why they may seem rather outdated!

arrangement with its creditors who did not receive or have not yet received full settlement of their claims, either whilst you were associated with it or within one year after you ceased to be associated with it.

7. There are any proceedings, whether criminal or civil, now pending or threatened against you, or any circumstances now subsist, which could give rise to any such proceedings following an affirmative answer to any of 1 to 6 above.
8. There are any aspects of your private or public life that might have a detrimental effect on your candidacy or your career if elected, or have the potential to bring you or the Party into disrepute.

Declaration

The Liberal Democrats reserve the right at any time to check on any experience, achievements, qualifications and skills claimed by you on your application form and on any

information provided by you in support of your application. By signing this form you will be providing us with your agreement for us to proceed with this course of action.

I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, all particulars I have given as part of my application for approval as a Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate are complete and true.

I declare that I will sign and keep up to date all personal and financial declarations as required.

I declare that I will abide by the Code of Conduct for Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidates.

I declare that I have read the Eligibility Criteria and Personal Disclosure information, and that I have notified the Candidates' Office of any relevant information as required.

I declare that I will in the future notify the Candidates' Office of any change in my circumstances in relation to the Eligibility Criteria and Personal Disclosure information.

I understand that any false declaration or misleading statement or any significant omission in the information I provide may constitute prima facie grounds for my removal from the list of approved candidates and, if elected to Parliament, may result in the Whip being withdrawn.

I agree for any personal data I provide to the Candidates' Office be held in accordance with the Liberal Democrat privacy policy, a copy of which is available at <https://www.libdems.org.uk/privacy>.

Name:

Signed:

Witness name:

Signed:

Address:

Date:

Occupation:

Important additional information:

Privacy:

If you return this form, the Liberal Democrats, locally and nationally, may use information provided, including your political views, to further our objectives, share it with our elected representatives and/or contact you in future using any of the means provided. Some contacts may be automated. You may opt out of some or all contacts or exercise your other legal rights by contacting us. Further details are in our Privacy Policy at www.libdems.org.uk/privacy.

MPs joining the Party:

If an MP of a different party defects to the Liberal Democrats they immediately become the Liberal Democrat MP for that seat. Any already-selected PPC must therefore step down. Article 19.6 of the Federal Constitution provides that a sitting MP may be re-selected by simple majority vote by members of the local party. Should the MP fail to be re-selected the previous PPC would then be free to apply for selection.