

## Regulations on Lobbying and Hustings – General Election 2015

### Lobbying

There has been some concern in churches about the implications of the changes introduced by the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014 in relation to what they can and can't do in the run-up to the 2015 General Election.

At a national level, some denominations have registered under the Act because they might be spending over the specified limit on campaigning activities which may fall within its provisions, e.g. the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and the Salvation Army. Other denominations took legal advice and decided that none of the activities that they were undertaking in the months prior to the General Election would require them to register.

It is very unlikely that any church or Churches Together group in Cumbria needs to register. Registration is required by the Act only if an organisation will spend more than £12,657 between 19 September 2014 and the General Election on 7 May 2015 on an activity which is likely to influence the way someone votes and can be seen by the general public. For more detail see: <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/party-or-campaigner/non-party-campaigners/fags-for-non-party-campaigners-at-the-uk-parliamentary-general-election-in-may-2015>

### Hustings

Advice about the regulations around Hustings is found on p.2/3 of the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland *Guide to Planning a General Election Hustings Meeting* which accompanies this paper.

For more detail see:

[http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/105946/sp-hustings-rp-npc-ca.pdf](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/105946/sp-hustings-rp-npc-ca.pdf)

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