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The
Electoral
Commission



The Northern Ireland Assembly elections 2003

Campaign spending

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The Electoral Commission

We are an independent body that was set up by the UK Parliament. We aim to gain public confidence and encourage people to take part in the democratic process within the UK by modernising the electoral process, promoting public awareness of electoral matters, and regulating political parties.

The Northern Ireland Assembly elections 2003
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Contents

Preface	3	Appendices	
Executive summary	5	Appendix 1	57
Spending by political parties	5	List of parties that contested the Northern Ireland Assembly election	
Spending by candidates	7		
1 Introduction	9	Appendix 2	58
The Electoral Commission	9	Information submitted in campaign expenditure returns	
Information and sources	10		
Scope of the report	11	Appendix 3	67
The compliance role of The Electoral Commission	11	The Northern Ireland Assembly Elections (Registered Parties and Candidates) Reimbursement Scheme 2003	
2 Campaign expenditure by political parties	13	Appendix 4	68
Controls at the Northern Ireland Assembly election	13	Categories of campaign expenditure: Schedule 8 to PPERA	
The 2003 campaign	17		
Reviewing the expenditure returns	17	Appendix 5	70
Party campaign expenditure at the 2003 Northern Ireland Assembly election	20	Table 14: Candidates' election expenses at the 2003 Northern Ireland Assembly election	
3 Election expenditure by candidates	27		
Controls at the Northern Ireland Assembly election	27		
The 2003 campaign	31		
Review of the returns	32		
Understanding legislative requirements	34		
Candidates	37		
4 Conclusion	53		
Political parties	53		
Candidates	54		
Future work programme	55		



Preface

Following our first statutory report on the administration of the 2003 Northern Ireland Assembly elections which was published earlier this year, this second report provides a detailed commentary on the spending of political parties and candidates during the election process.

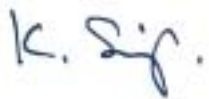
The Electoral Commission seeks to place the interests of the electorate at the centre of its thinking. Within the Northern Ireland context this means that the role and impact of money in the democratic process should be presented in a transparent manner so that it can be monitored and analysed carefully by all those interested in maintaining high levels of public confidence. We believe that the publication of this report will make a contribution to this ongoing process of making informed assessments about the integrity of the electoral process.

For the first time at a Northern Ireland Assembly election, political parties were subject to the financial controls introduced by Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). Consistent with our role to monitor compliance with financial requirements of the Act, the expenditure returns submitted by those parties and candidates who contested the November 2003 election have been reviewed by the Commission and inform much of the analysis within this report.

This is not, however, the first time we have produced such a report. After the 2001 general election the Commission produced *Election 2001: Campaign spending* which, for the first time, provided detailed analysis of the spending patterns of parties and candidates. With this report on spending at the 2003 Northern Ireland Assembly elections we have the opportunity to continue the precedent set by the 2001 report in contributing towards the transparency and openness of the electoral process. It also provides a template to assess how the political parties in Northern Ireland are responding to the regulatory framework.

Throughout this report the Commission has sought to present the expenditure information provided by the political parties in a clear and accessible manner so that any common trends or significant differences can be identified. The Commission will also continue to focus on maintaining the integrity of the process and intentions underpinning the legislation.

On a personal note I would wish to record my appreciation for the hard work undertaken by staff based at our London and Belfast offices.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Singh'.

Karamjit Singh CBE

Executive summary

In April 2004 the Commission published a report on the administration of the Northern Ireland Assembly election 2003. This second report focuses on campaign spending at the election. The report outlines the regulatory framework to which those campaigning at the election were subject and provides detailed analysis of the spending of political parties and candidates contesting the election. This election was the first at which parties and candidates contesting an Assembly election were required to operate under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) regulatory framework.

Spending by political parties

All 17 registered political parties that participated in the elections submitted campaign expenditure returns (see Table 1). Some points to note include:

- In total the political parties reported campaign expenditure of £648,247.
- A party contesting all 18 constituencies had a spending limit of £306,000.
- All parties were comfortably within their expenditure limits.

Table 1: Total campaign expenditure and percentage of limit spent, by party

Party	Expenditure limit (£)	Expenditure incurred (£)	Percentage of limit spent (%)
Social Democratic and Labour Party	306,000	234,911	76.8
Ulster Unionist Party	306,000	170,912	55.9
Democratic Unionist Party	306,000	147,867	48.3
Sinn Féin	306,000	28,766	9.4
Alliance Party	306,000	24,631	8.0
Progressive Unionist Party	187,000	11,321	6.1
Northern Ireland Women's Coalition	119,000	8,150	6.8
Conservative Party	102,000	7,221	7.1
The Workers Party	136,000	7,060	5.2
UK Unionist Party	85,000	5,190	6.1
Vote For Yourself Party	51,000	1,175	2.3
Green Party	102,000	1,043	1.0
Socialist Environmental Alliance	34,000	0	0.0
Northern Ireland Unionist Party	34,000	0	0.0
The Socialist Party (Northern Ireland)	34,000	0	0.0
The Ulster Third Way	17,000	0	0.0
United Unionist Coalition	34,000	0	0.0

The review of party campaign expenditure returns highlighted a number of areas that need to be addressed by political parties and The Electoral Commission, including:

- submitting campaign expenditure returns within the statutory deadlines;
- accurately and consistently categorising expenditure for reporting purposes; and
- ensuring that payments are only made by authorised persons.

Spending by candidates

A total of 256 candidates contested the 108 Assembly seats across 18 parliamentary constituencies.

- The total election expenditure declared by candidates was £896,930.¹ The average amount spent was £3,504 per candidate.

¹ On a significant number of returns, candidates had declared a figure for their total expenditure that did not match the sum of the individual expenses they had reported. The Commission has included these figures as calculated, rather than as reported. Averages and percentages have been calculated from these figures.

- The 108 candidates elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly spent a total of £458,676.
- One hundred and forty-five candidates reported having received relevant donations, totalling £361,035. The average amount received per candidate was £1,426.
- In addition, 66 candidates declared a total of £196,350 provided by themselves to fund their campaign.
- The remaining £330,000 of expenditure by candidates was unaccounted for in terms of income, or provided for by non-reportable donations of £50 or less.

Individual spending limits were calculated by a formula designed to reflect the number of electors registered to vote in each constituency. North Antrim had the highest expenditure limit of £9,853.57 and South Belfast had the lowest limit of £7,815.52.

- The four largest political parties (Democratic Unionist Party, Ulster Unionist Party, Sinn Féin and Social Democratic and Labour Party) fielded candidates in every constituency. Their total expenditure accounted for 72% of the amount spent by all candidates. In total, candidates representing these parties spent £645,949.
- The 77 candidates fielded by the 13 smaller parties represented 30% of all candidates standing for election. They spent a total of £183,430, just over 20% of the total amount spent.

- Twenty-two individual candidates² spent a total of £67,552 representing just over 7% of the total election expenditure incurred by all candidates at the election.

The Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland is required to supply a copy of the return to The Electoral Commission. He is also required to make it available for public inspection for the next two years. Any person has the right to inspect the returns.

Under Section 145 of PPERA, the Commission has a general responsibility for monitoring compliance with controls on candidates' election expenses. The review suggests that some areas of confusion exist among candidates and agents in respect of reporting candidate election expenses. The review highlighted a number of areas that need to be addressed by political parties and The Electoral Commission, including:

- making claims and payments within the statutory time limits;
- accurately categorising expenditure for reporting purposes; and
- identifying expenditure as candidates' expenses or party campaign expenditure.

² Candidates are classed as an individual candidate where they stand as 'independent' or with no description on the ballot paper.



H & W

1 Introduction

In April 2004, The Electoral Commission published a report on the Northern Ireland Assembly elections, held on 26 November 2003. In line with the Commission's statutory duty,³ that report reviewed the administration of the election and more widely the conduct of the campaign. This second report provides analysis of the campaign expenditure incurred in relation to the election.

The Electoral Commission

1.1 The Electoral Commission is a UK-wide independent public body established on 30 November 2000 under Section 1 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). The Commission is independent of the Government and political parties and is directly accountable to the Westminster Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. The Commission is headed by a Chairman and four other Commissioners, none of whom have connections to any political party. It is responsible for overseeing a number of aspects of electoral law including the registration of political parties, monitoring and publication of significant donations to registered political parties and the regulation of political party spending on election campaigns.

1.2 The Commission has a role in advising those involved in elections on practice and procedure and is required to report on the administration of every major election. In Northern Ireland the Commission has a statutory responsibility to report on elections to the Westminster Parliament, the European Parliament and the Northern Ireland Assembly. Unlike many electoral commissions outside the UK, the Commission does not have a responsibility for maintaining and updating electoral rolls, employing electoral services staff or conducting elections. In Northern Ireland these tasks are the statutory responsibility of the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland.

³ Section 5 of PERA.

1.3 The Commission's corporate aims are to:

- promote and maintain openness and transparency in the financial affairs of the UK's political parties and others involved with elections;
- review the administration and law of elections and to encourage best practice;
- encourage greater participation in, and increased understanding of, the democratic process;
- ensure that the Commission is able to undertake the effective conduct of a referendum;
- provide for electoral equality in each local authority area in England while also reflecting community identity and interests; and
- carry out all the Commission's statutory functions impartially using resources efficiently, effectively and economically.

1.4 While the Commission's main office is located in London, it has three other offices: one in Scotland, one in Wales and one in Northern Ireland. The Commission's office based in Belfast has responsibility for delivering the corporate aims of the Commission in the context of Northern Ireland. It ensures that the Northern Ireland dimension is fully represented in the strategic thinking and operational planning of the Commission. Where appropriate the office works with the Chief Electoral Officer and the Northern Ireland Office. Important priorities for the Commission are developing relationships with the political parties, developing and advising on electoral policy and practice, and raising awareness of electoral matters.

1.5 To this end the Commission has established an Assembly Parties' Panel and one Commissioner takes a special interest in Northern Ireland affairs. The Panel meets on a quarterly basis and all parties represented in the Northern Ireland Assembly are members. Minutes of the quarterly meetings are published on the Commission's website (www.electoralcommission.org.uk). The Panel acts as a forum for sharing information on electoral matters and has been central to developing good working relationships with all the political parties. The Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland and his senior colleagues attend meetings of the Panel by invitation. In the run up to the election this has afforded the political parties and the Commission an opportunity to share information and discuss key aspects of the Assembly election with the Chief Electoral Officer.

Information and sources

1.6 This report has been informed by a number of sources, which include the campaign expenditure returns, the candidate's election expense returns and previous reports published by the Commission relating to campaign spending and various policy reviews. It has also benefited from the input of key stakeholders whose views have made an invaluable contribution to our review of the election and for which we are particularly grateful. However, it should be emphasised that the views and recommendations in this report are those of The Electoral Commission alone.

Scope of the report

1.7 The report is divided into two main sections. The first deals with the expenditure incurred by political parties and the second focuses on the expenditure of candidates. It details the amount of expenditure reported as having been incurred by political parties and candidates during the regulated campaign periods for the election. It also provides an overview of the operation of the regulatory framework relating to election expenditure.

1.8 Each section outlines the legislative requirements regulating campaign finances and describes patterns of campaign spending. The report also comments on related issues that arose during the campaign.⁴ Finally, the report draws on the Commission's work to monitor compliance with the controls on campaign spending by political parties and the controls on donations to, and expenditure by, candidates.⁵

1.9 This report does not record any spending by recognised third parties at the Northern Ireland Assembly elections 2003, as none registered to participate at these elections.

1.10 At a Northern Ireland Assembly election, the voting system employed is the Single Transferable Vote (STV). The STV is a system of proportional representation that allows electors to vote for individual candidates in order of preference. Each of the 18 Northern Ireland Westminster constituencies returns six members to the Assembly. All 108 Members of the Northern

Ireland Assembly (MLAs – Members of the Legislative Assembly) are elected on this basis.

1.11 Each candidate is subject to an individual expenses limit. This limit is calculated by adding a fixed amount⁶ to a variable sum determined by the number of electors on the electoral register.

1.12 Each party putting up candidates for election to the Northern Ireland Assembly is subject to an expenditure limit determined by the number of constituencies it is contesting. This is £17,000 per constituency contested by the party. Therefore, a party that put up candidates in all 18 constituencies would have a spending limit of £306,000.

The compliance role of The Electoral Commission

1.13 PPERA gives the Commission the statutory duty of monitoring compliance with:

- Parts V and VI of the Act, which deal with campaign spending by registered political parties and third parties; and
- the restrictions and other requirements imposed by relevant enactments in respect of candidates' election expenses and donations.

1.14 The first election at which the Commission undertook this monitoring role was the 2001 Westminster election.⁷ Following that election, party campaign expenditure reports were

4 Section 10 of PPERA.

5 Section 145 of PPERA.

6 This fixed amount (£5,483) is subject to change where appropriate to reflect inflation.

7 Controls on donations to candidates came into force after the 2001 general election in 1 July 2001.

submitted to the Commission and copies of candidates' election expenses returns submitted to Returning Officers were forwarded to the Commission. The Commission then undertook a review to examine the extent of compliance with the new financial controls of PPERA by political parties and third parties. The findings were published in November 2002.⁸

1.15 At the time of the 2003 Northern Ireland Assembly elections the regulatory controls introduced by PPERA had been in place for more than two years. The Electoral Commission is not a prosecuting agency. The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) for Northern Ireland has the authority to direct the police to investigate breaches of the Representation of the People Act 1983. Final protocols governing the respective roles in relation to The Electoral Commission, the police service and DPP in Northern Ireland are currently being negotiated. The Commission monitors parties' compliance with the Act and by developing its relationships with parties and other stakeholders to establish procedures, which enable parties to comply with the law. The Commission is very much concerned with ensuring that parties and candidates comply fully with the legislative requirements to which they are now subject. The Commission not only seeks to promote compliance with legislative controls but also provides advice on best practice to political parties, third parties and candidates standing at elections.

⁸ *Elections 2001: Campaign spending* available on our website (www.electoralcommission.org.uk).

2 Campaign expenditure by political parties

The 2003 election was the first at which parties contesting seats to the Northern Ireland Assembly were required to operate under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act (PPERA) regulatory framework. These controls were in place in time for the 2001 Westminster election, which provided some of the political parties with experience of operating under wide expenditure controls.

Controls at Northern Ireland Assembly elections

2.1 Seven registered political parties from Northern Ireland, including the four larger parties,⁹ contested the 2001 general election and therefore had experience of operating to a limit of campaign expenditure and of the recording and reporting requirements set out in PERA.

2.2 Spending controls were applied at the Northern Ireland Assembly election in 1998 under the Elections (Northern Ireland) Order 1996. A number of controls had previously been imposed on elections in Northern Ireland under the Representation of the People Act 1983. However these controls centred on candidates and did not regulate spending by political parties. The 1996 Order imposed controls on:

- who could make payments on behalf of political parties;
- the time for receiving claims for and making payments to meet election expenses;
- the submission of a return of campaign expenditure; and
- expenditure limits.

The 2003 election

2.3 The date for the second election to the Northern Ireland Assembly was set in legislation for 1 May 2003, to coincide with elections to the other devolved legislatures. However, the election was initially postponed until 29 May 2003, and subsequently postponed until the autumn.

⁹ Democratic Unionist Party, Sinn Féin, The Social Democratic and Labour Party, and The Ulster Unionist Party.

Following the second postponement, the Government asked The Electoral Commission to administer a scheme that allowed eligible political parties and candidates to be reimbursed allowable costs they had incurred while campaigning for the postponed elections. The Commission received claims from 12 parties and 92 candidates, amounting to just over £500,000 in respect of party claims and just over £85,000 in candidate claims. The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) was responsible for making the payments. Appendix 3 sets out the terms made under this scheme.

Definition of campaign expenditure

2.4 Under PPERA, campaign expenditure is defined as expenditure incurred on any of the items below in order to promote electoral success for the party:

- party election broadcasts;
- advertising;
- unsolicited material to electors;
- manifestos and other documents;
- market research;
- press conferences and dealings with the media;
- transport; and
- rallies and other events.

2.5 The Commission also advised parties that, in its view, the definition of campaign expenditure included overheads and administrative costs that could be attributed to the list of items above.

2.6 By law, the definition of campaign expenditure also includes notional expenditure. Notional expenditure is incurred when any goods, services, property or facilities are provided to

a party free of charge, or at a discount of more than 10% from ordinary commercial terms, for the purpose of the party's election campaign.

Incurring campaign expenditure

2.7 Campaign expenditure can only be incurred by certain registered party officers, or by individuals authorised by them. The registered Treasurer of a party is legally responsible for managing the party's campaign expenditure unless a Campaigns Officer has been appointed. Where a Campaigns Officer has been appointed, that person is responsible for managing campaign expenditure.¹⁰ The registered Party Treasurer, or if one has been appointed, the Campaigns Officer, can appoint up to 12 deputies who are also authorised to incur campaign expenditure in order to help them manage the party's campaign. In addition, anyone authorised in writing by the registered Treasurer or one of their deputies can also incur campaign expenditure up to an authorised sum.

Paying campaign expenditure

2.8 There are also controls on paying claims for campaign expenditure. Payments can only be made by the registered Party Treasurer, one of their deputies, or by a person authorised in writing by the registered Treasurer or a deputy officer. In addition, claims must be paid within specified time periods. It is a legal requirement that all claims for campaign expenditure are received no later than 21 days after the date of the election, and also that such claims are paid within 42 days of the date of the election.

¹⁰ References to the Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer in this document are references to the Party Campaigns Officer or Deputy Campaigns Officer, if one has been appointed.

2.9 Claims that are received later than 21 days after the election – unpaid claims – cannot be paid unless a court order giving leave to pay the claim is granted. Claims received within 21 days but which are not paid within the 42 days are referred to as disputed claims. Disputed claims can only be paid after the relevant time periods if a court gives leave to pay the claim. Details of such payments must be included in the party's campaign expenditure return, or otherwise submitted to the Commission within seven days of the date on which the payment was made if the return has already been submitted.

Campaign expenditure limits

2.10 Parties can incur campaign expenditure up to the limits specified by PPERA. For the election, these limits were determined by multiplying £17,000 by the number of constituencies contested by the party. Therefore, a party that contested all 18 constituencies had an expenditure limit of £306,000.

2.11 Table 2 shows how many constituencies each party contested along with their respective expenditure limits.

Table 2: Campaign expenditure limits

Party	Constituencies contested	Expenditure limit (£)
Alliance Party	18	306,000
Democratic Unionist Party	18	306,000
Social Democratic and Labour Party	18	306,000
Sinn Féin	18	306,000
Ulster Unionist Party	18	306,000
Progressive Unionist Party	11	187,000
The Workers Party	8	136,000
Northern Ireland Women's Coalition	7	119,000
Conservative Party	6	102,000
Green Party	6	102,000
UK Unionist Party	5	85,000
Vote For Yourself Party	3	51,000
Northern Ireland Unionist Party	2	34,000
Socialist Environmental Alliance	2	34,000
The Socialist Party (Northern Ireland)	2	34,000
United Unionist Coalition	2	34,000
The Ulster Third Way	1	17,000

2.12 The limits applied to campaign expenditure incurred by parties in the regulated period prior to the election. The regulated period for devolved elections is four months (ending with the date of the poll), meaning that the regulated period for the 2003 election ran from 27 July – 26 November 2003. However, expenditure that was incurred before the start of the regulated period on goods and services that were used for the purposes of the campaign during the regulated period also counted against the party's campaign expenditure limit.

Reporting campaign expenditure

2.13 Following the election, parties were required to submit a return detailing campaign expenditure incurred at the election. The return should provide details of all payments made by parties in relation to campaign expenditure, and of all notional expenditure incurred by the party. It should also provide details of any unpaid or disputed claims relating to the campaign.

2.14 The return should be accompanied by invoices or receipts and a declaration by the registered Party Treasurer stating that, to the best of their knowledge, the return is complete and correct, and that only individuals authorised to do so incurred expenditure.

2.15 Campaign expenditure returns reporting expenditure of more than £250,000 are required to be accompanied by a report prepared by an independent qualified auditor, stating that the summary of expenditure return is a true and fair representation of the expenditure incurred by the party.

2.16 Returns and declarations must be submitted to the Commission within three months of the date of the election, or within six months if the campaign expenditure incurred was more than £250,000.

Non-compliance with the controls

2.17 PPERA specifies a number of offences in relation to the campaign expenditure controls on parties:

- A person commits an offence if they accept the office of registered Party Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer and have been convicted of an offence in relation to PPERA, at a UK election or a national or UK referendum.
- It is also an offence to incur campaign expenditure or make payments on behalf of a party without the authorisation of a relevant party officer.
- PPERA also states that an offence is committed if a party pays a claim received after the 21 day deadline for receipt of claims, or if it pays a claim (received within the 21 day period) after the 42-day deadline for paying claims.

2.18 Both the registered Party Treasurer or their deputy and the party are guilty of an offence if campaign expenditure in excess of the party's expenditure limit is knowingly incurred during the regulated period for the election.

2.19 In relation to the requirement to submit a campaign expenditure return to the Commission following the election:

- The registered Party Treasurer commits an offence if they fail to comply with the

requirement to submit an expenditure return and report by an auditor (if one is required).

- An offence is also committed if the registered Party Treasurer fails to send to the Commission details of any unpaid or disputed claims paid after the campaign expenditure return is submitted to the Commission.
- The registered Party Treasurer commits an offence if they fail to submit a declaration with the return, or knowingly and recklessly makes a false declaration.

2.20 A person convicted of any of these offences is liable to a fine or up to one year's imprisonment.

2.21 Parties can also be subject to a civil penalty if they fail to submit a campaign expenditure return (and audit report as necessary) within the relevant time period. A minimum fine of £500 can be applied to parties that fail to submit returns, with the fine increased depending on the extent to which the return is overdue.

Donations

2.22 The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums (Disapplication of Part IV for Northern Ireland Parties) Order 2001 provides an exemption to political parties in Northern Ireland in relation to the controls that currently regulate the acceptance and reporting of donations. This order is due to expire in February 2005.

The 2003 campaign

2.23 At the beginning of the regulated period, the Commission issued a guidance document to parties to help them prepare for and manage election campaign spending. The guidance

document was based on the Commission's review of the campaign expenditure returns submitted by parties following the 2001 Westminster election. The Commission's guidance document built on experience gained in 2001 during the general election and provided practical advice on the provisions of the legislation and examples of best practice.¹¹

Reviewing the expenditure returns

2.24 The Commission's review of campaign returns for the 2003 Assembly elections suggests that parties are learning how to comply with the PPERA controls, although there are still some common issues that need to be addressed. Relatively few queries relating to the application of campaign expenditure controls at the 2003 election were referred to the Commission, which can be contrasted with the campaign period for the 2001 general election, when the Commission received many queries from parties about how items of campaign expenditure should be treated for the purposes of PPERA.

2.25 The separate and different controls on party campaign expenditure and candidates' election expenses gave rise to confusion. A small but significant number of party expenditure returns also reported expenditure incurred and paid for by them in respect of the campaigns of candidates. Such expenditure should be reported as the individual election expenditure of that candidate and not party campaign expenditure. In instances where such expenditure had been reported, it appeared that the party had made the payments relating to this expenditure and thus considered

¹¹ These guidance documents, produced by the Commission, are updated regularly and are available to the public on our website (www.electoralcommission.org.uk).

it to be reportable by them rather than the candidate. Where such expenditure was reported within a return it raised questions concerning the accuracy of both the campaign expenditure return and the election expenses returns of the party's candidates. In recognition of this, a number of reviews undertaken by the Commission involved the cross checking of election expenses returns submitted by candidates with the campaign expenditure returns of the party on whose behalf they were standing. This resulted in the inclusion or removal of certain items of expenditure.

2.26 To help clarify matters, the Commission has since revised its guidance for both candidates and parties on providing advice on how to identify party campaign expenditure or candidate's expenses.

2.27 The Commission recognises that a number of parties provide training for candidates, Elections Agents and local Party Treasurers and commends their efforts in doing so. Ideally, good practice would ensure that all parties provide specific written guidance on expenditure issues to all selected candidates and their Election Agents, and where possible offer training on how the relevant legislative requirements apply. The Commission recognises that this could be a significant task for parties to undertake and is willing to provide what assistance it can to assist parties in achieving this objective.

Payment dates

2.28 Section 77(1) of the PPERA provides that only the registered Treasurer, one of their deputies, or by a person authorised in writing by the registered Treasurer or a deputy officer

may pay claims for campaign expenditure. These claims should be received no later than 21 days after the date of the election.

2.29 Parties have previously raised concerns with the Commission that the deadlines imposed by PPERA on both receipt of claims for payment and making payments are too short, and at the 2003 election not all parties found themselves able to make payments within the prescribed timescales.¹²

2.30 The Commission has previously recommended that the period allowed for receipt of claims for payment of campaign expenditure should be increased from 21 to 30 days and the period for payment of claims from 42 to 60 days.

2.31 When reviewing the campaign expenditure returns, the Compliance Team found that one of the parties had received a claim after the relevant deadline and then made a payment without obtaining a court order granting leave to pay the claim. In the case of the Northern Ireland Assembly election this deadline was 17 December 2003. The party received a claim that was dated 18 December 2003, after the deadline. The responsible officer explained that they had not been aware of any such breach and had assumed that the 21-day deadline for the receipt of claims was similar to that of its candidates (the deadline was calculated from the day of the count). The party stated that they had not realised that the deadline was counted from the day of the poll, hence the reason for paying the invoice, as they assumed it was

¹² *Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000: Recommendations for change* available on our website (www.electoralcommission.org.uk).

dated on the last day of the 21-day period. This case highlights some of the confusion that exists as the controls on candidates and parties are very similar in part, but have slight differences in their application.

2.32 The Commission decided that, in this case, the appropriate and reasonable course of action was to continue to work with the party concerned to ensure that an adequate system was in operation to prevent a recurrence of this issue in the future. The party is aware that should such breaches occur in the future, the Commission would consider taking enforcement action.

Categorisation of expenditure

2.33 In reporting their campaign spending, parties are required to allocate each item of campaign expenditure to one of the eight categories of expenditure provided under Schedule 8 of PPERA (refer to Appendix 3). Variations in how parties allocated expenditure among different types of spending is discussed fully in the analysis of campaign expenditure returns.

2.34 At the 2001 Westminster election, a number of parties felt that the categories provided under Schedule 8 did not accurately reflect costs such as increased overheads incurred during the campaign.

2.35 The guidance issued by the Commission now provides examples under each heading of the list of items we would expect to see reported under each of the expenditure categories provided under Schedule 8. In order to provide further clarity regarding the treatment of overhead and administration costs, the

Commission's report, *Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000: Recommendations for change*, proposes that the inclusion of relevant overheads as campaign expenditure be formalised within the legislation through an additional category of expenses being inserted into Schedule 8. It should be recognised of course that this would always be a subjective area, reliant on case-by-case judgements.

Late submission of expenditure return

2.36 PPERA provides two different time limits as to the date by which the campaign return must be submitted, depending on the value of the expenditure incurred. Where a party incurs expenditure of less than £250,000 the political party must submit a return within three months of the date of the poll. Where a party incurs expenditure of more than £250,000, the party must submit a return and auditors report within six months of the poll.

2.37 As none of the 17 parties contesting the election incurred expenditure of over £250,000 all party campaign expenditure returns were due to be submitted by 25 February 2004. However, 11 out of 17 returns were submitted late with the extent of the delay ranging from 1–124 days.

2.38 The Compliance Team requested a written explanation in respect of all the late returns from parties. In cases where the Commission received the late return within two days of the deadline, it was deemed that no further action was justified.

2.39 Three of the parties making late returns were received within two days of the deadline. All other parties making late returns were small

parties with either no expenditure or relatively low expenditure. The Commission decided that the appropriate course of action was to encourage the parties to ensure that in the future, relevant deadlines are met.

Party campaign expenditure at the 2003 Northern Ireland Assembly

2.40 All 17 parties contesting seats reported campaign expenditure totalling £648,247. The maximum amount they could have spent was £2,465,000. Therefore, parties spent 26% of their permitted maximum overall.

2.41 Returns 1–17 in Appendix 2 show the information contained in the campaign expenditure returns of each party. The analysis of the returns is based on the Compliance Team’s findings and in some cases the original figures have been amended by agreement with the relevant party. Where figures have been amended, a revised return showing original and amended figures is included.

2.42 The following analysis considers various general trends, as well as focusing on particular findings and statistics. The proportion of party campaign expenditure incurred is shown in Figure 1 and Table 3.

Figure 1: Party campaign expenditure

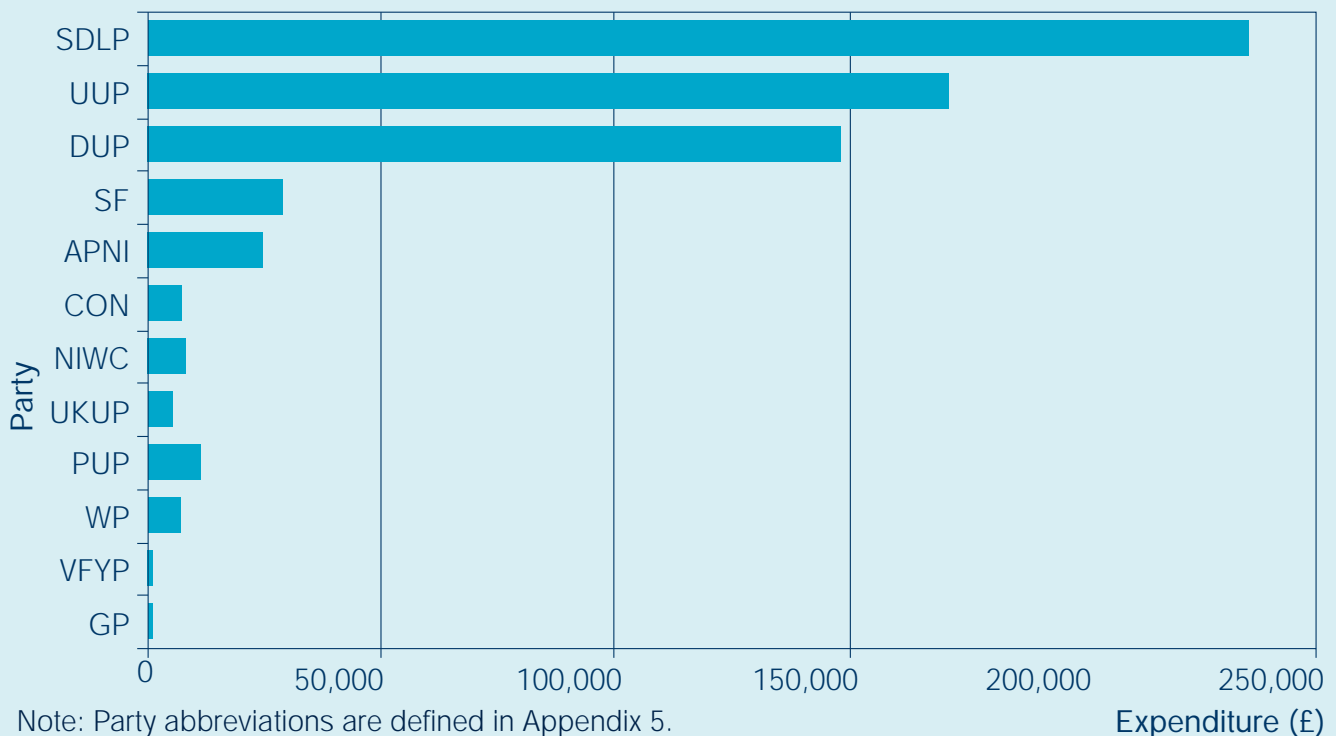


Table 3: Proportion of total campaign expenditure incurred, by party

Party	Expenditure incurred (£)	Proportion of total campaign spending (%)
Social Democratic and Labour Party	234,911	36.2
Ulster Unionist Party	170,912	26.4
Democratic Unionist Party	147,867	22.8
Sinn Féin	28,766	4.4
Alliance Party	24,631	3.8
Progressive Unionist Party	11,321	1.7
Northern Ireland Women's Coalition	8,150	1.3
Conservative Party	7,221	1.1
The Workers Party	7,060	1.1
UK Unionist Party	5,190	0.8
Vote For Yourself Party	1,175	0.2
Green Party	1,043	0.2
Socialist Environmental Alliance	0	0.0
Northern Ireland Unionist Party	0	0.0
The Socialist Party (Northern Ireland)	0	0.0
The Ulster Third Way	0	0.0
United Unionist Coalition	0	0.0
Total	648,247	100.0

Spending patterns by party

2.43 Three parties (the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the Democratic Unionist Party and the Ulster Unionist Party) reported campaign expenditure in excess of £100,000. These three parties contested all constituencies at the election and between them accounted for 85.4% of the total campaign spending by all parties.

- The Social Democratic and Labour Party was the only party to declared expenditure in excess of £200,000.
- The Democratic Unionist Party and the Ulster Unionist Party both spent in excess of £100,000.
- Sinn Féin and the Alliance Party both spent in excess of £20,000.
- No other party spent more than £20,000.

2.44 The highest average spend, reflecting the highest reported spending, was that of the Social Democratic and Labour Party at £13,051 per constituency contested. Of the other four parties who contested all 18 constituencies the average spend per constituency was:

- the Ulster Unionist Party – £9,495;
- the Democratic Unionist Party – £8,215;
- Sinn Féin – £1,598; and
- the Alliance Party – £1,368.

2.45 The lowest average spend per electoral area contested was that of the Green Party at

£173.83. However, five parties declared having incurred no expenditure at all and none of these parties contested more than two seats.

2.46 All the parties remained comfortably within their expenditure limits (see Table 4). Only two out of the 17 parties spent over 50% of the limit. The Social Democratic and Labour Party spent 76.8% of their limit with the Ulster Unionist Party and the Democratic Unionist Party spending 55.9% and 48.3% of their respective limits. Sinn Féin and the Alliance Party spent 9.4% and 8.0% of their respective limits.

Table 4: Campaign expenditure at the 2003 Northern Ireland Assembly election, and percentage of limit spent

Party	Expenditure incurred (£)	Percentage of limit spent (%)
Social Democratic and Labour Party	234,911	76.8
Ulster Unionist Party	170,912	55.9
Democratic Unionist Party	147,867	48.3
Sinn Féin	28,766	9.4
Alliance Party	24,631	8.0
Progressive Unionist Party	11,321	6.1
Northern Ireland Women's Coalition	8,150	6.8
Conservative Party	7,221	7.1
The Workers Party	7,060	5.2
UK Unionist Party	5,190	6.1
Vote For Yourself Party	1,175	2.3
Green Party	1,043	1.0
Northern Ireland Unionist Party	0	0.0
Socialist Environmental Alliance	0	0.0
The Socialist Party (Northern Ireland)	0	0.0
The Ulster Third Way	0	0.0
United Unionist Coalition	0	0.0

Table 5: Proportion of total party campaign expenditure spent on different categories of campaign activity

Category	Democratic Unionist Party (%)	Sinn Féin (%)	Social Democratic and Labour Party (%)	Ulster Unionist Party (%)
Party political broadcasts	5.60	11.20	11.00	20.50
Advertising	19.20	47.60 *	41.70 *	64.30 *
Unsolicited material to electors	3.00	0.00	0.20	0.00
Manifesto/ Party political documents	50.40 *	10.80	1.40	4.20
Market research/ Canvassing	0.00	1.50	9.50	0.00
Media	0.80	22.80	30.30	9.00
Transport	19.50	1.90	1.10	1.10
Rallies and other events	0.00	1.90	0.90	0.40
Overheads and general administration	1.50	2.40	4.00	0.60

Note: The asterisk (*) denotes the area in which each party spent the largest amount.

Spending patterns by category

2.47 Returns 1–17 shown in Appendix 2 provide detailed information submitted by each party to the Commission in respect of campaign expenditure and the patterns disclosed by these returns.

The four larger parties

2.48 Table 5 indicates the proportion of their overall expenditure that the four larger parties spent on each category of expenditure. The statistics highlight notable similarities and differences between the spending patterns of all four parties.

2.49 Three of the larger parties concentrated the majority of their campaign expenditure on advertising and media. The Social Democratic and Labour Party spent £97,973 on advertising and £71,075 in connection with press conferences or other media related activities.

2.50 The Ulster Unionist Party spent £109,836 on advertising, which constituted just over 64% of their entire campaign expenditure. The balance of their expenditure was concentrated on their party political broadcast (£34,369) and other media related activities.

2.51 Sinn Féin spent less in total than the three other larger parties with £13,700 on advertising, which constituted 47.6% of their total expenditure and £3,220 on their party political broadcast.

2.52 The Democratic Unionist Party reported having spent 19.2% of their total expenditure on advertising (£28,353), with just over 50% of their total campaign expenditure on their manifesto and other policy related documents. The party's second highest area of spending was transport, accounting for 19.5% of their total campaign expenditure. The majority of the transport costs reported by the Democratic Unionist Party were incurred in respect of the hire and decoration of their battle bus. The Democratic Unionist Party spent no money on rallies and other events.

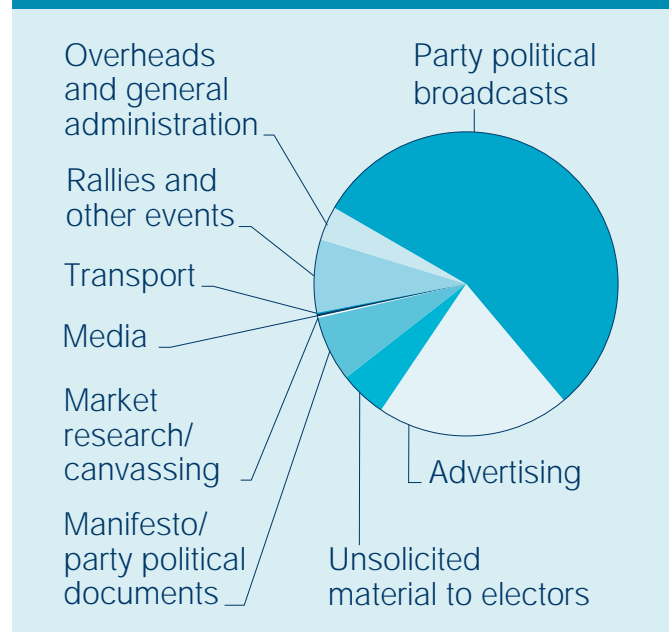
2.53 Neither the Ulster Unionist Party nor Sinn Féin spent any money on unsolicited materials sent to electors.

Other parties and trends

2.54 The reported expenditure of the 13 other parties reflected a different pattern of spending than that of the four larger parties. The smaller parties focussed the majority of their spending on advertising, unsolicited election materials and the production of party political broadcasts. These categories of expenditure accounted for just over 80% of the expenditure declared by these parties.

2.55 Two of the smaller parties spent over £10,000. The Alliance Party, who contested all 18 constituencies, spent £24,631 and the Progressive Unionist Party, who contested 11 constituencies, spent £11,321. Figure 2 shows the pattern of spending among the smaller parties. Eight of the smaller parties incurred expenditure in respect of party political broadcasts, with seven of these parties reporting this category as their highest area of expenditure. Five of the smaller parties reported having incurred no expenditure.

Figure 2: Categories of expenditure by smaller parties



2.56 Unlike the four larger parties the majority of expenditure incurred by the smaller parties was in respect of party political broadcasts, which accounted for just over 55% of all expenditure incurred by them. All expenditure incurred by the Conservative Party, the Green Party and the Vote For Yourself Party was in respect of party political broadcasts.

2.57 Although the second highest area of spending among the smaller parties was advertising, accounting for just over 20% of the total expenditure reported by these parties, only three parties incurred such expenditure. The Workers Party, who contested eight seats, incurred the majority of their reported expenditure on advertising, spending £6,110.

2.58 The Alliance Party spent a greater amount on rallies and other events than any other party contesting the election, more than the expenditure incurred by all four of the larger parties in this area.

2.59 Only one of the smaller parties, the Progressive Unionist Party, incurred expenditure in respect of market research, however this constituted just less than 2% of the total expenditure incurred by the party. Similarly very few parties other than the four larger parties spent any money on media management, representing less than 1% of all expenditure incurred by these parties.

2.60 Following trends identified at the 2001 Westminster elections, the smaller parties in Northern Ireland spent very little money in relation to transportation costs. Only the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition incurred expenditure in respect of transport, in their returns reporting £46. This indicates that travel costs were likely to have been covered by the candidates themselves. The Commission advised that it was not necessary to report costs where candidates used their own cars or those of volunteers and the notional cost of petrol was less than £50.



3 Election expenditure by candidates

The election expenses of candidates standing for election to the Northern Ireland Assembly are controlled under the Representation of the People Act 1983 as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001 (the 2001 Order). Following its enactment, PPERA introduced a number of significant amendments to the Representation of the People Act 1983. These amendments came into effect in July 2001, shortly after the 2001 Westminster election. The devolved elections in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2003 were the first major elections at which the new controls for candidates applied, including the need to report donations.

Controls at Northern Ireland Assembly elections

Date a person becomes a candidate

3.1 The PPERA introduced amendments to the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA) to clarify the date on which a person becomes a candidate. These amendments were intended to end the ambiguity that arose from the definition that applied under the RPA. Prior to these amendments candidates' election expenses counted against their statutory maximum expenditure limits from the date they declared themselves a candidate. This led to protracted periods of campaigning whereby an individual referred to themselves as a 'prospective candidate' or 'local representative' so as to avoid triggering election expenses controls. By providing a definitive date on which an individual becomes a candidate, the statutory maximum limit on election expenses incurred by candidates is more consistently applied.

3.2 Under the new rules, a person becomes a candidate at a Northern Ireland Assembly election on the last date for publication of notice of an election if on, or before, that date they are declared as a candidate (whether by themselves or by others). Where a person has not been declared a candidate by that date, they will become a candidate on the date on which they are declared or nominated as a candidate (whichever is earlier).¹³ This means that the earliest date a person could have become a candidate at the 2003 election, thus triggering their election expenses, was 23 October 2003.

¹³ Section 118A of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA) as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

Defining and classifying election expenditure

3.3 Election expenses are now defined as any expenses incurred in respect of any property, goods, services or facilities, used for the purposes of the candidate's election after the date on which they become a candidate for election.¹⁴ It does not matter whether expenditure was incurred on these items before or after that date.

3.4 The meaning of election expenses has been further amended to explicitly include:

- expenditure incurred prior to the date a person becomes a candidate;¹⁵
- expenditure incurred on items for purposes other than the election, but then used for the candidate's campaign or on items not used exclusively for the purposes of the candidate's campaign;¹⁶ and
- notional expenditure of over £50.¹⁷

3.5 As with political parties, notional expenditure is incurred when any goods, services, property or facilities are provided to a candidate, or their Election Agent free of charge, or at a discount of more than 10% of the commercial rate, for the purpose of the candidate's election. The value of notional expenditure is the difference between the commercial cost of an item and the amount the candidate, or his Election Agent actually paid for the item. The requirement to include a reasonable

¹⁴ Section 90A of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

¹⁵ Section 90A of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

¹⁶ Section 90B of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

¹⁷ Section 90C of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

value for notional expenditure and a proportion of costs of items relative to their use for electoral purposes means that it is no longer acceptable for candidates, or agents to include nominal sums within expenses returns. As an example, £10 may have been included in an expenses return for use of an office free of charge when the commercial value of using that office was £250.

Donations

3.6 Although political parties in Northern Ireland are currently exempt¹⁸ from the requirements that apply to UK parties regulating donations, no such exemption applies to candidates. The controls on donations to candidates were also introduced by PPERA in 2001 apply across the UK. In accordance with these controls relevant donations must now be reported within a candidate's election expenses return.

3.7 Donations are defined as any of the following:

- any gift (including a bequest) to the candidate or his Election Agent of money or other property;
- any sponsorship provided in relation to the candidate;
- any money spent (other than by the candidate or his Election Agent or any sub-agent) in paying any election expenses;
- any money lent to the candidate or his agent other than on commercial terms; or

¹⁸ The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (Disapplication of Part IV for Northern Ireland Parties, etc) Order 2001 made under section 70 of the 2000 Act exempts Northern Ireland parties from the requirements of Part IV of PPERA which regulates the acceptance and reporting of donations.

- the provision for the use or benefit of the candidate of any property, services or facilities (including the services of any other person) other than on commercial terms.

3.8 Examples of donations to candidates may include:

- a cheque for £500 provided to meet a candidate's election expenses;
- the provision of free stationery supplies; or
- office space provided at a 50% discount.

Candidates and Election Agents must report in their election expenses return report any donation of more than £50 accepted from permissible sources.¹⁹

3.9 Permissible sources, from which donations may be accepted, are defined as:²⁰

- an individual registered on a UK electoral register;
- a UK registered political party;
- a UK registered company;
- a UK registered trade union;
- a UK registered building society;
- a UK registered limited liability partnership;
- a UK registered friendly/building society; and
- a UK based unincorporated association.

3.10 Donations from registered political parties should be reported within candidates' expenses returns. This includes donations to candidates from constituency associations and local party branches.

3.11 Donations received from sources other than those listed above (such as foreign nationals or companies registered outside of the UK) are impermissible donations and should be returned to the donor. Donations from unidentifiable sources should be returned to the financial institution or person through which the donation was transmitted (if known), or otherwise sent to The Electoral Commission for payment into the government's Consolidated Fund.

3.12 Any donations of more than £50 received from unidentifiable or otherwise impermissible sources, even though not accepted, must be reported within a candidate's election expenses return.

Returns

3.13 Following the election, the Election Agents of all candidates were required to prepare a statement of all election expenses and relevant donations. This had to be submitted to the Deputy Returning Officer in the constituency in which the candidate stood, together with written declarations by both the candidate and the Election Agent verifying that the return was correct.²¹ Returns had to be submitted within 35 days of the declaration of the election result. For most constituencies this meant by 2 January 2004.

¹⁹ Schedule 2A, paragraph 6 of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

²⁰ For full definitions of permissible sources refer to Section 54 of the PPERA.

²¹ Section 81 and 82 of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

3.14 While candidates were also required to submit returns of election expenses after the 1998 Northern Ireland Assembly election, the statutory information provided in those returns was significantly different from that required under the new controls. As a result of the amendments made by PPERA to controls on candidates' election expenses and donations, current legislation requires returns to provide the following information:²²

- all election expenses incurred;
- all payments made by the Election Agent;
- expenses incurred before an Election Agent was appointed;
- petty and personal expenses;²³
- expenses incurred by a person authorised by the Election Agent (under Section 75 of the RPA);
- any disputed and/or unpaid claims;
- amount of expenses incurred before a person became a candidate;
- declarations of value in relation to items purchased for purposes other than the election but subsequently used for that purpose;
- declarations of value in relation to notional expenditure of more than £50;
- all relevant donations of more than £50 (made to the candidate or his agent); and
- all monies contributed by the candidate from their own resources to meet the costs of the election.

²² Section 81 of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

²³ Petty expenses are expenses such as stationery and postage etc. Personal expenses are expenses incurred by the candidate, e.g. travel, food etc.

3.15 While previously, election expenses returns required Election Agents to report expenditure under more practical category headings such as 'paid for hire of rooms' and 'paid for postage', the current legislative framework requires that expenditure is reported under the categories listed above.

3.16 Upon receipt of a candidate's expenses return, the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland is required to supply a copy of the return to The Electoral Commission.²⁴ He is also required to make it available for public inspection for the next two years.²⁵ Any person has the right to inspect the returns.

Non-compliance with the controls

3.17 Under electoral law there are a number of offences pertaining to non-compliance with the statutory requirements regarding election expenses. Failure to submit an expenses return, or an accompanying declaration, is an illegal practice,²⁶ as is knowingly incurring expenses in excess of the statutory maximum limit.²⁷ Knowingly making a false declaration with regard to election expenses is a corrupt practice.²⁸

3.18 These illegal and corrupt practices are offences under criminal law and acts that have consequences in relation to electoral law.

²⁴ Section 87A of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

²⁵ Section 89 of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

²⁶ Section 84 of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

²⁷ Section 76 of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

²⁸ Section 83 of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

A candidate or Election Agent found guilty of an illegal practice on summary conviction is liable to a fine of up to £5,000.²⁹ A candidate or Election Agent found guilty of a corrupt practice is liable to a term of imprisonment, or a fine, or both.³⁰ A person convicted of an illegal or corrupt practice may be disqualified from standing as a candidate, or acting as an Election Agent, and the election may be declared void.³¹

3.19 An allegation of a corrupt or illegal practice may be prosecuted through the judicial system. The Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland has the authority to direct the police to investigate allegations of breaches of electoral law and to institute prosecutions in instances they deem appropriate.³²

The 2003 campaign

3.20 The 2003 Northern Ireland Assembly election campaign presented a different picture of campaign spending to that found at the devolved elections in Scotland and Wales earlier in 2003. A number of factors contributed to this, including the postponement of the election from May to November and the different voting system in Northern Ireland. The voting system in Northern Ireland operates under the Single Transferable Vote, which allows electors to vote for specific candidates only, whereas Scotland and Wales operate under the Additional Member System.

²⁹ Section 169 of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

³⁰ Section 168(1) of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

³¹ Section 159(1) of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

³² Section 181 of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

Additional Member System is a combination of a first-past-the-post system and a party list system, enabling electors to vote for a party as their regional representative and specific candidates as their constituency representatives.

3.21 Throughout the campaign period a number of issues were raised in respect of the treatment and handling of candidates' election expenditure.

Notional expenditure

3.22 The Electoral Commission received a number of queries concerning the definition of notional expenditure, in particular how such expenditure should be valued and reported. The change from including a nominal sum for the use of goods or services for which no actual payment had been made to having to evaluate and report the estimated commercial value of the use of such goods and services caused concern to a number of candidates and agents. Some were of the opinion that estimations of value are subjective and could be subject to challenge. Guidance on making estimations of value was provided by the Commission in advance of the elections. We have since extended this guidance, and the document *Election expenditure and donations: guidance for candidates and election agents*³³ is now available on the Commission's website. Other candidates and agents raised the issue that the inclusion of a commercial value for services such as the use of a constituency office within a candidate's maximum expenditure limit could mean that they were able to spend less on other areas of the campaign.

³³ This document provides advice and guidance for candidates contesting elections to the UK Parliament, European Parliament, the devolved legislatures and local government elections in England and Wales (with the exception of parish and community elections).

3.23 While the Commission understands these concerns, and recognises that commercial property costs vary significantly depending on location, it considers that the use of offices is a declarable election expense and must count against a candidate's expenditure limit. The Commission has recommended that amendments be made to current legislation allowing a list of items that qualify (or do not qualify) as election expenses to be prescribed.³⁴

Candidates' election expenses and party campaign expenditure

3.24 Confusion was also caused by the existence of two separate sets of expenditure controls placed on candidates and parties. In some cases the candidate found it difficult to determine what materials were candidate's election expenses and what constituted party campaign expenditure. In certain instances party campaign expenditure such as party political broadcasts had been divided between the candidates and attributed to the individual campaigns.

3.25 The issues raised during the campaign period caused concern as to the level of understanding of current legislative requirements held by many candidates and agents. These concerns could be alleviated to some extent where a list of items that qualify (or do not qualify) as candidates' election expenses were prescribed, as recommended by the Commission. This together with the list of

qualifying expenses as detailed in Schedule 8 of PPERA relating to campaign expenditure would provide candidates with a more useful summary of how to distinguish the different types of expenditure.

Joint candidates

3.26 Candidates are considered to be joint where they:

- employ the same Election Agent;
- use the services of the same clerk or messengers;
- hire or use the same committee rooms at an election; or
- publish joint addresses, circulars or notices at the elections.

3.27 Where candidates carry out any of these activities together they are automatically considered to be standing as joint candidates. Where joint candidates are required to apportion cost between them, it is necessary for those candidates to consider the value each candidate had from that item of expenditure and attribute the appropriate proportion to the candidate's expenditure. Some confusion appears to have occurred in how Election Agents should apportion cost between candidates.

Review of the returns

3.28 The expenditure returns of all candidates who contested seats at the election were reviewed by the Commission. The purpose of these reviews was to:

³⁴ Full details of this recommendation can be found in the Commission's paper *Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000: Recommendations for change* available on our website (www.electoralcommission.org.uk).

- monitor compliance with the relevant legislative requirements in order to draw lessons on the issues encountered by candidates and agents in complying with the controls, and provide guidance in respect of these issues; and
- identify problem areas and to draw attention to them, whether there are problems with reporting formats, with current legislative requirements, or a lack of understanding by those responsible for complying with the controls.

The returns submitted highlighted a number of areas where there appears to be a significant amount of confusion relating to the new legislative requirements.

Completion of returns

3.29 Overall, the review provided a useful insight into the income and expenditure of candidates, and identified a number of the problems faced in completing the returns.

3.30 A number of returns were inaccurate or incomplete. Inaccuracies included reporting expenditure under the wrong category, duplicating a figure in more than one category or providing the wrong total expenditure figure. Omissions included the lack of signatures needed to verify declarations of value, supplier details, the dates on which expenditure was incurred or payments were made and the provision of supporting invoices or receipts required to verify expenses. Some candidates and Election Agents had not reported all relevant election expenses and donations within the returns. Inaccuracies in the completion of the returns also made it more difficult to ascertain definite figures regarding candidates' spending at the election.

3.31 The complete and accurate reporting of spending by candidates is an important check in ensuring the integrity of the electoral process and failure to comply can have serious consequences. It would appear that the inaccurate reporting of election expenditure was due mainly to the complexity of the new reporting requirements. The list of items required to be included in the return is extensive, and according to feedback received by the Commission, many candidates and agents felt overwhelmed by the requirements. Candidates and agents suggested that the election expenses return devised by the Commission was not conducive to candidates and agents understanding the requirements or correctly completing the return.

3.32 From the Commission's experience in reviewing the returns, it considers that some of the reporting errors, referred to previously, were symptomatic of a wider lack of understanding of current legislative requirements. The returns highlighted that every attempt was made to fulfil the reporting obligation, the complexity of the requirements resulted in mistakes being made. As the Commission identified from reviewing returns in Scotland and Wales, there was similar confusion relating to what actually constitutes an election expense. The Commission will therefore be reviewing the form of return for candidates to identify if amendments to the format could make the return easier to use while still meeting the statutory reporting requirements.

3.33 The Commission has also recommended that the current legislation should be amended with a requirement for the return to include details of all election expenses (including

notional expenditure, unpaid and disputed claims) and donations, with the Commission determining the format through which it can best monitor compliance with the legislation.³⁵

Understanding of legislative requirements

Definition of election expenses

3.34 Amendments made by PPERA to the definition of election expenses were intended to reduce ambiguity as to what constitutes an election expense: by first, providing a definitive date on which a person becomes a candidate and second, a more explicit definition of the items on which election expenditure is incurred.

3.35 However, in practice, amending the definition of election expenses to include a proportion of expenditure incurred on any item used for electoral purposes has created such a wide scope for interpretation that it has led to significant inconsistency in how items of expenditure are treated. For example one candidate reporting office costs may include only the rental value of the office another may report the rental value along with associated costs such as use of computers, use of telephones and proportions of electricity bills for the office. Such inconsistent treatment of election expenses could undermine the purpose of imposing a limit on candidates' election expenditure if candidates and agents have differing interpretations of what expenditure actually falls within those limits.

³⁵ Full details of this recommendation can be found in the Commission's paper *Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000: Recommendations for change* available on our website (www.electoralcommission.org.uk).

3.36 While the objective behind the new provisions was to provide clarification that goods and services cannot be used for the purposes of the election without election expenses being incurred in respect of them, it does appear that the lack of clarity in this area is causing confusion as candidates and agents are unsure of what proportion of costs, incurred on specific goods and services, constitute election expenses.

3.37 The Commission considers that there are some items that could be reasonably excluded from the definition of election expenses. This would provide greater clarity for candidates and agents about election expenses, and thereby ensure a more standardised approach in their reporting. The Commission has recommended that amendments be made to current legislation allowing a list of items that qualify (or do not qualify) as election expenses to be prescribed.³⁶ Such a list should be in a similar format to the list of items of party expenditure at Schedule 8 to PPERA, which provides categories of expenses that qualify as election expenditure, and also details specific exclusions.

Incurring election expenses

3.38 Information drawn from candidates' returns highlighted that there was some uncertainty as to who is legally allowed to incur expenditure and make payments in respect of election expenses. The law prescribes that only the candidate, his Election Agent, or an individual or body authorised

³⁶ Full details of this recommendation can be found in the Commission's paper *Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000: Recommendations for change* available on our website (www.electoralcommission.org.uk).

in writing by the Election Agent are authorised to incur election expenses.³⁷ Under Section 75 of the RPA, any individual or organisation that is authorised in writing to incur election expenses had to submit a separate expenses return and declaration, accompanied by the original written authorisation, to the appropriate officer within 21 days of the date the election result was declared. The expenses incurred should also be reported within the candidate's expenses return as expenditure incurred under Section 75.

3.39 However, the reviews of the returns identified that while a number of Election Agents submitted Section 75 returns and declarations at the same time as candidates' expenses returns, they did not report any expenditure within the candidates' returns that would actually require Section 75 returns to be submitted. Where the Section 75 returns and declarations were submitted these were often filled in by the Election Agent and not by the person incurring the expense. This demonstrates a significant lack of understanding as to the purpose of Section 75 returns and declarations and the related controls on written authorisation to incur expenditure. The Commission intends to address this issue through the provision of enhanced guidance for candidates and agents, and by developing best practice guidance on the submission of Section 75 returns and declarations.

Making payments

3.40 Within the existing legislative framework, in most instances only the Election Agent can legally make payments in respect of election

³⁷ Section 75 of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

expenditure.³⁸ Exceptions to this include payments made by candidates for personal expenses (up to a specified limit), payment of petty expenses and payments to be made before the date an Election Agent is appointed. In reviewing the returns however, we identified a number of instances where local Party Treasurers or constituency associations were reported as having made payments on behalf of the candidate. Party members, including local Party Treasurers, are not authorised to make payments relating to candidates' election expenses, although it appears that it is common practice for them to do so. Where a party purchases or provides items used for the candidates' election, this constitutes notional expenditure and should be reported as such.

3.41 Guidance for candidates and agents provided by the Commission has now been redrafted to specifically address this issue and advise on how such expenditure should be handled and reported. Training given to candidates and agents by Commission staff has also been adapted to emphasise the relevant controls on who can make payments and incur expenditure in respect of candidates' election expenses.

Time limits for claims and payments

3.42 All claims for payment must be received within 21 days of the date the election result is declared.³⁹ Where the claim for payment is not made within the statutory time limits, payment

³⁸ Section 73 of the RPA. Exceptions to this requirement are laid out under section 74 of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

³⁹ Section 78 of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

of the claim is barred and cannot be paid. It is categorised on the return as an unpaid claim and should be declared as such. The claimant, candidate or agent must apply to court in order to be granted leave to make the payment.

3.43 All claims must be paid within 28 days of the date the election result is declared.⁴⁰ Where the payment is not made within the prescribed time limits, it is deemed a disputed claim. Such payment is barred and cannot be paid. The claimant, candidate or agent must apply to court in order to be granted leave to make the payment.

3.44 This requirement proved to be problematic for the candidates and agents at these elections due to the time of year the election was held (polling day was on 26 November 2003). All claims for payment had to be received by 18 or 19 December 2003, and all payments had to be made by 29 December 2003, which in turn was dependent upon the date that the result was actually declared.

Donations

3.45 There was also confusion as to the reporting of donations in respect of money and other goods provided to the candidate by the party. Registered political parties are permissible donors under the PPERA and any money or goods and services provided to the candidate by their party should be reported as a donation. In a significant number of returns, agents failed to provide details of cash and non-cash donations made by the party, leaving a considerable difference between the reported levels of income and expenditure within the returns.

⁴⁰ Section 79 of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

3.46 Failure to report relevant donations is a breach of the legislative requirements and reduces the accountability and transparency of candidate and party finances. To address this issue, the Commission has produced enhanced guidance and training materials emphasising that money or services provided by a party to any of their candidates is a reportable donation and must be treated as such. It would suggest that where any central party or local party branch provides a cash or non-cash donation to a candidate, those providing the donation highlight to the candidate at that time, that this gift should be included within their candidates' election expenses return.

3.47 Analysis of the returns also highlighted another common misunderstanding in the reporting of donations. Where notional expenditure of more than £50 is incurred, it is in most circumstances also a notional donation (a donation in kind) to the candidate. However, in a significant number of returns where notional expenditure was reported there was no donation of equivalent value reported.

3.48 During the election campaign, an independent candidate accepted two impermissible donations, one from an anonymous donor and the other from a donor in the USA. In such circumstances these donations should have been returned to their source or surrendered to the Consolidated Fund. Upon investigation it was established that the anonymous donation was received from a permissible donor and the impermissible donation was received from an individual that was not on an electoral register in the UK. The

Commission received confirmatory evidence that the donation had been returned to its source in the USA.

3.49 The Commission decided not to take enforcement action in this case. The reason for this is that the breach had occurred because of a genuine misunderstanding made by this candidate in regard to the application to candidates of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (Disapplication of Part IV for Northern Ireland Parties, etc) Order 2001. The candidate had previously been a member of a political party in Northern Ireland and therefore was aware that the donation controls were different in NI than elsewhere in the rest of the UK and believed that these exemptions were also applicable to candidates.

Candidates

Expenditure limits

3.50 Each candidate is allowed to incur expenses on their campaign up to a prescribed limit during the regulated period in advance of the election.⁴¹ The legal limit covers all election expenses incurred that fall to be used within the regulated period. The limit does not, however, cover a candidate's personal expenses⁴² such as travel expenses incurred on journeys to and from the constituency they are contesting and the cost of living in hotels or elsewhere during the election period.

⁴¹ Section 76 of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

⁴² Section 76 of the RPA as applied by the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001.

3.51 A candidate standing at election to the Northern Ireland Assembly may pay up to £600 of his own personal expenses and which have to be declared. Any personal expenses incurred in excess of this limit must be paid for by the Election Agent.

3.52 The statutory maximum limit for a constituency candidate's election expenses is calculated separately for each constituency using a statutory formula that takes into account the size and nature of each individual constituency.⁴³

3.53 At the 2003 Northern Ireland Assembly election limits were calculated as follows.

- (a) For rural constituencies (such as Fermanagh and South Tyrone), candidates were allowed to spend £5,483 plus a further 6.2p for every entry in the register of electors to be used in the election.
- (b) For urban constituencies (such as Belfast East) candidates were allowed to spend £5,483 plus a further 4.6p for every entry in the register of electors to be used in the election.

The maximum expenditure limits were £9,855 in a rural constituency and £7,868 in an urban constituency.

Joint candidates

3.54 At elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly, candidates may be considered as joint candidates for the purposes of their election expenditure limits. Maximum limits for expenditure are reduced in the case of joint candidates.

⁴³ These limits are periodically revised in order to take into account the rate of inflation.

Where there are two joint candidates the limit for each candidate is reduced by a quarter. Where there are three or more joint candidates the limit for each is reduced by a third.

3.55 Candidates will be considered joint candidates where they do any of the following:

- employ the same Election Agent;
- use the services of the same clerk or messengers;
- hire or use the same committee rooms at an election; or
- publish joint addresses, circulars or notices at the elections.

3.56 Where a candidate stands as a joint candidate with one other, the limit for an average sized rural constituency would be £6,947. There were 58 candidates standing with one other at the elections. The actual range of expenditure limits for these candidates varied from £5,862 to £7,390.

3.57 Where a candidate stands as a joint candidate with two or more other candidates, the limit for an average sized rural constituency would be £6,176. There were 84 candidates that stood with two or more other candidates. The actual range of expenditure limits for these candidates varied from £5,216 to £6,569.

Income and expenditure by candidates

3.58 There were 256 candidates contesting the 108 Assembly seats at the election. The Commission received election expense returns for all of these candidates and the information in this report is based on those returns.

3.59 The total election expenditure declared by candidates was £896,930.⁴⁴ The average amount spent per candidate was £3,504, less than half the permitted maximum figure for the average expenditure limits of both rural and urban constituencies as detailed above.

3.60 There were 41 candidates (just over 16% of all candidates) that spent over 80% of the permitted maximum for their constituency, while 139 candidates (just over 54% of all candidates) spent 50% or less than the permitted maximum in their constituency. Of those candidates that spent 50% or less than the permitted maximum, three reported having incurred no expenditure at all.

3.61 One hundred and forty-five candidates reported having received relevant donations, totalling £361,035. The average amount received per candidate was £1,426. In addition, 66 candidates declared a total of £196,350 provided by themselves to fund their campaign. The remaining £330,000 of expenditure by candidates was unaccounted for in terms of income, or provided for by non-reportable donations of £50 or less.

⁴⁴ On a significant number of returns, candidates had declared a figure for their total expenditure that did not match the sum of the individual expenses they had reported. In a number of instances the difference in reported and calculated figures is due to the duplication of figures in more than one category, the inclusion of personal expenses in the election expenditure total or the failure to apportion the figures reported between the relevant candidates. The Commission has included these figures as calculated, rather than as reported. Averages and percentages have been calculated from these figures.

Spending patterns by party affiliation

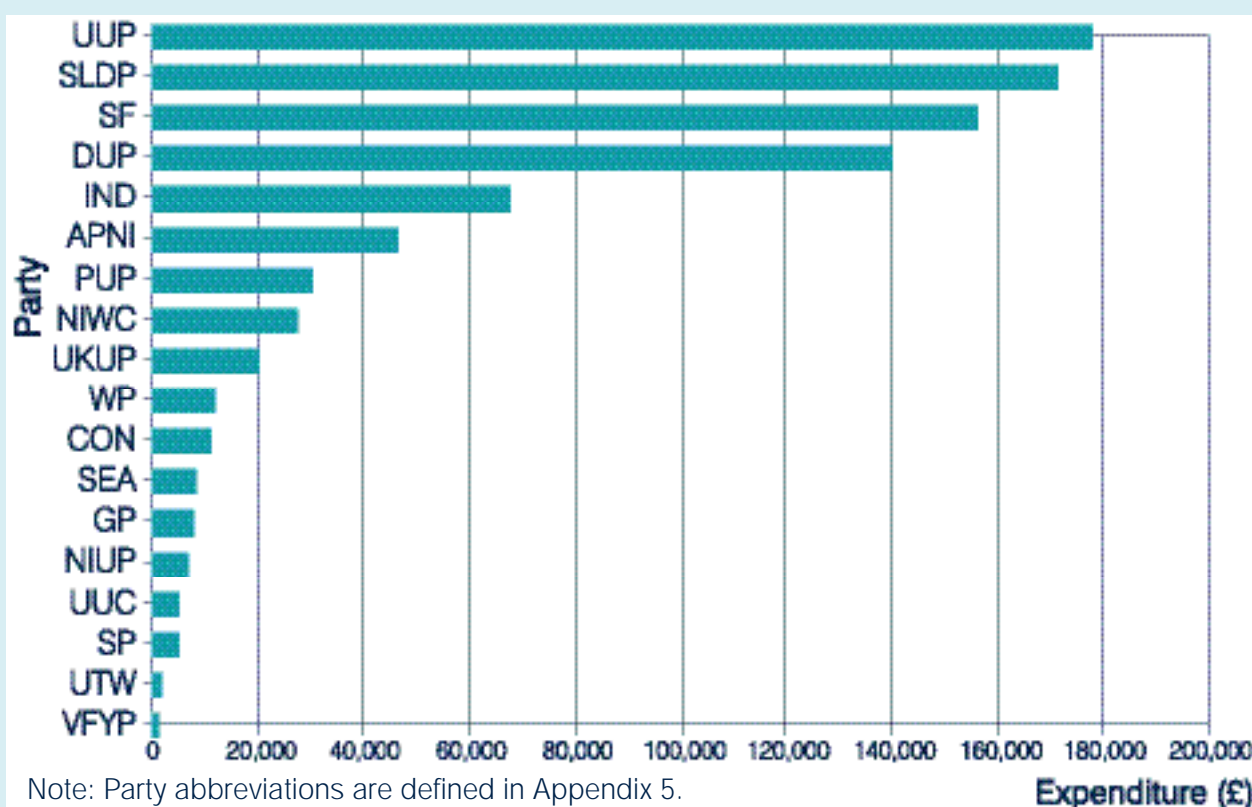
3.62 The pattern of spending by Northern Ireland candidates at the 2001 general election differed slightly from the pattern of spending at the 2003 Assembly election. Similar to the spending pattern in 2001, candidates representing the four larger parties spent more in total than those candidates representing smaller parties.

However, candidates representing a number of the smaller parties who fielded significantly less candidates spent a similar amount or more on average than the average amount spend by the candidates representing the four larger parties.

3.63 The proportion of candidates election expenditure incurred by each party is shown in Figure 3.

3.64 Just over 61% of all candidates represented one of the four larger political parties (Social Democratic and Labour Party, Ulster Unionist Party, Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Féin). Each of these parties fielded candidates in every constituency at the 2003 election and their total expenditure accounted for 72% of the total amount spent by all candidates. Candidates representing these four parties spent £645,949.

Figure 3: Total spend by party candidates and independents



3.65 Candidates representing one of the 13 smaller parties spent a total of £183,430, just over 20% of the total amount spent. This figure also includes expenditure by the Alliance Party who fielded candidates in all 18 constituencies, but had significantly less candidates than the four larger parties.

3.66 There were 22 individual candidates⁴⁵ who spent a total of £67,552 that represented just over 7% of the total election expenditure incurred by all candidates at these elections (see Table 6).

3.67 Of the four larger parties, the Social Democratic and Labour Party, at £4,767, spent most per candidate. This was closely followed

Table 6: Average candidates' expenditure by party and percentage of total candidates expenditure

Party	Number of candidates fielded	Total spend (£)	Average spend per candidate (£)	Percentage of total expenditure (%)
UUP	43	177,880	4,137	20
SDLP	36	171,595	4,767	19
SF	38	156,444	4,117	17
DUP	40	140,030	3,501	16
IND*	22	67,552	3,071	8
APNI	21	46,291	2,204	5
PUP	11	30,003	2,728	3
NIWC	7	27,630	3,947	3
UKUP	6	20,236	3,373	2
WP	8	11,850	1,481	1
CON	6	11,297	1,883	1
SEA	2	8,665	4,332	1
GP	6	7,896	1,316	1
NIUP	2	6,496	3,248	1
UUC	2	5,154	2,577	1
SP	2	5,114	2,557	1
UTW	1	1,435	1,435	0
VFYP	3	1,363	454	0
ALL	256	896,930	3,504	100

Note: *IND represents individual (independent) candidates and is not a registered political party.

45 Candidates are classed as an individual candidate where they stand as independent or with no description on the ballot paper.

by the Ulster Unionist Party at £4,137 and Sinn Féin at £4,117. The Democratic Unionist Party spent £3,501 per candidate.

3.68 There were 77 candidates representing 13 smaller parties and these candidates spent an average of £2,382 each. Although the Alliance Party fielded candidates in all 18 constituencies they spent average of £2,204 per candidate. The 22 candidates standing as independent or individual candidates spent an average of £3,071 per candidate.

3.69 The two Socialist Environmental Alliance candidates spent an average of £4,332 and the seven candidates representing the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition spent an average of £3,947. The lowest average expenditure was that of the Vote For Yourself Party, who fielded three candidates with an average expenditure of £454.

3.70 Figure 4 shows the spread of candidate expenditure by the four larger parties as a percentage of the maximum limit spent.

3.71 Sixteen per cent of both the Social Democratic and Labour Party candidates and the Ulster Unionist Party candidates spent over 90% of their permitted maximum, the corresponding figures for the Sinn Féin and the Democratic Unionist Party candidates were 5% and just under 3% respectively.

3.72 Eight per cent of Sinn Féin candidates spent 20% or less than the permitted maximum on their campaign. No candidates representing the three other larger parties spent less than this amount.

3.73 Figure 5 shows the spread of expenditure by smaller parties and individual candidates as a percentage of the maximum limit spent.

Figure 4: Four main parties expenditure by percentage of limit

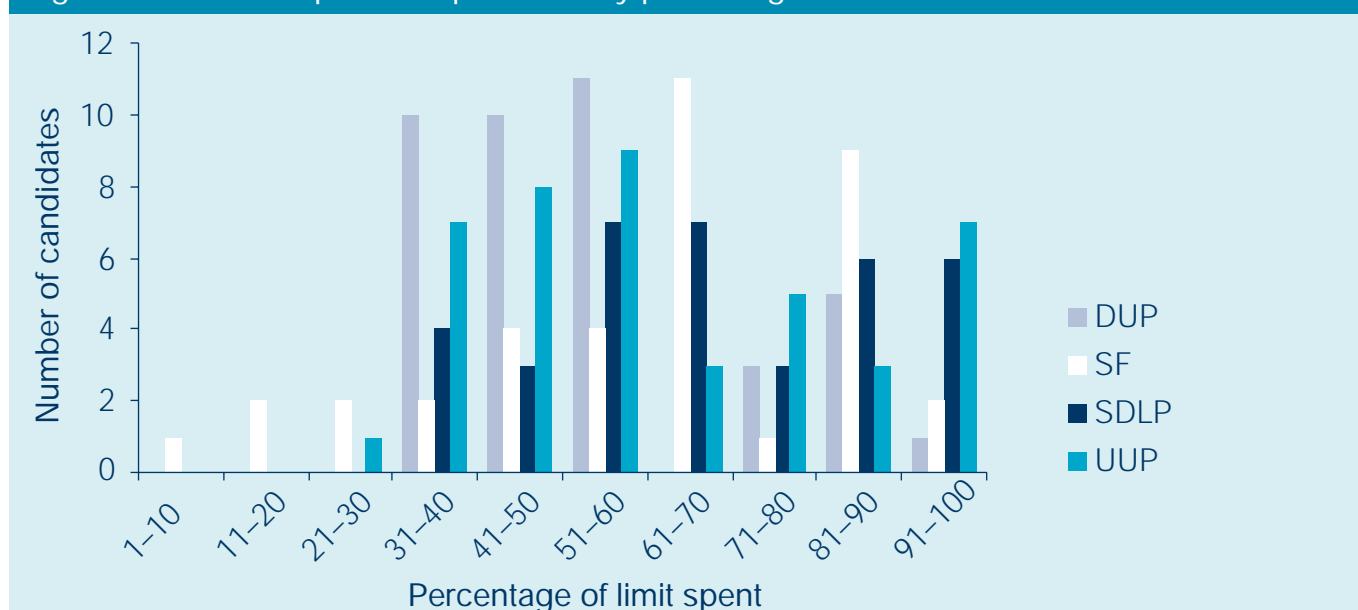
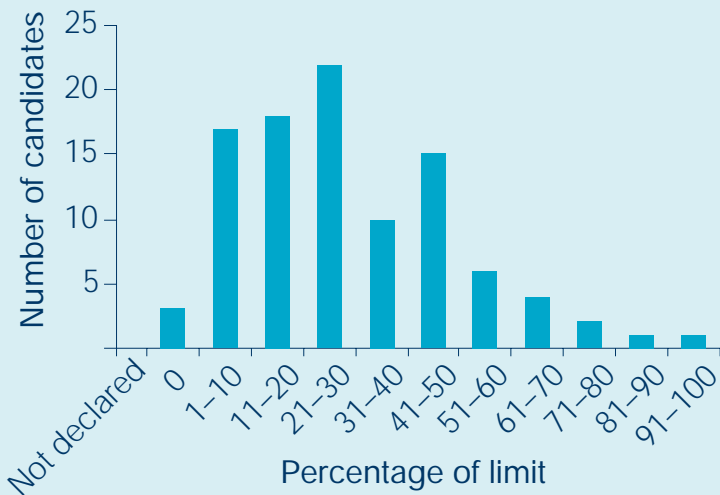


Figure 5: Smaller parties and individual candidates expenditure by percentage of limit



3.74 Twelve per cent of candidates from the 13 smaller parties that contested the election, and 23% of the individual candidates, spent over 50% of their permitted maximum expenditure limit.

3.75 Two individual candidates spent over 80% of their limit. None of the candidates from the 13 smaller parties spent over 80% of their permitted maximum. Two of the Vote For Yourself Party candidates and one individual candidate declared no expenditure (see Table 7).

Table 7: All candidates, by percentage of limit spent

Party	Not declared	0	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70
AP	-	-	9	2	-	1	7	1	1
CON	-	-	-	3	2	1	-	-	-
DUP	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	11	-
IND	-	1	4	2	4	3	3	1	1
NIUP	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
WC	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	2
PUP	-	-	-	1	7	-	1	2	-
SF	-	-	1	2	2	2	4	4	11
SDLP	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	7	7
SEA	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
GP	-	-	4	-	2	-	-	-	-
SP	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
WP	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
UKUP	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	2	-
UTW	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
UUP	-	-	-	-	1	7	8	9	3
UUC	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
VFYP	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
All	0	3	18	20	25	33	40	37	25

Note: Party abbreviations are defined in Appendix 5.

Spending patterns by reporting category

3.76 Candidates' Election Agents made the payments for 84% of the total expenditure incurred. In contrast, payments made by the candidate before an Election Agent was appointed, represented just less than 2% of all payments made, and less than 1% of the total expenditure incurred by all candidates was in respect of petty expenditure.

- A total of £1,990 of unpaid or disputed claims was declared, representing less than 1% of the total expenditure reported.
- A total of £105,608 of notional expenditure was declared and this represents 12% of all election expenditure incurred.

	71–80	81–90	91–100	100+	Total
	-	-	-	-	21
	-	-	-	-	6
	3	5	1	-	40
	1	1	1	-	22
	-	-	-	-	2
	1	-	-	-	7
	-	-	-	-	11
	1	9	2	-	38
	3	6	6	-	36
	-	-	-	-	2
	-	-	-	-	6
	-	-	-	-	2
	-	-	-	-	8
	-	-	-	-	6
	-	-	-	-	1
	5	3	7	-	43
	-	-	-	-	2
	-	-	-	-	3
	14	24	17	0	256

- Less than 1% of the total expenditure reported was expenditure that had originally been incurred for purposes other than the election.

3.77 The Election Agents for Ulster Unionist Party candidates made payments of an average of £3,938 (just over 95% of the average Ulster Unionist Party candidates total expenditure) while the Election Agents of The Socialist Party candidates made no payments at all.

3.78 Candidates representing the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition reported an average of £634 per candidate in respect of expenditure incurred prior to becoming a candidate. Candidates representing the Social Democratic and Labour Party reported an average of £84 per candidate and the Democratic Unionist Party reported an average of £75 per candidate in respect of expenditure incurred prior to becoming a candidate. No other parties' candidates reported any payments in respect of such expenditure.

3.79 Candidates representing the Socialist Environmental Alliance reported unpaid or disputed claims of £1,941.⁴⁶ One Ulster Unionist Party candidate reported an unpaid claim of £49 in respect of a utility bill that had not been received within the limit of 21 days provided by the legislation.⁴⁷

⁴⁶ The Electoral Commission has contacted the respective agents who informed it that these claims were paid without being granted leave from the courts. In this instance it was decided that appropriate action would be to inform these agents of the legal requirements in respect of unpaid claims to ensure future compliance.

⁴⁷ The Electoral Commission has contacted this candidate's agent who confirmed that this invoice had not been paid. No application to the court for leave to pay this invoice has yet been made by the candidate, agent or claimant.

3.80 Sinn Féin candidates incurred over 30% of all notional expenditure reported. The corresponding figures for candidates representing the Ulster Unionist Party was just under 6%, the Social Democratic and Labour Party candidates just under 19% and the Democratic Unionist Party candidates just under 22% of the total notional expenditure reported. This is in contrast to notional

expenditure reported by the political parties, which constituted 5% of all reported expenditure.

3.81 No notional expenditure was reported by candidates representing the Alliance Party, the Conservative Party, the Northern Ireland Unionist Party, the Northern Ireland Woman's Coalition, the Green Party, the UK Unionist Party, Ulster Third Way, the United Unionist Coalition or the Vote For Yourself Party (see Table 8).

Table 8: All candidates expenditure by reporting category, by party (all figures are in pounds)

Party	Payments made by agent	Payments made by candidate	Petty expenditure	Unpaid or disputed claims	Expenditure incurred prior to becoming a candidate	Notional expenditure	Expenditure incurred for other purposes	Total expenses
AP	46,257	0	34	0	0	0	0	46,291
CON	9,252	107	1,937	0	0	0	0	11,297
DUP	108,614	4,746	857	0	3,003	22,809	0	140,030
IND	56,126	3,026	0	0	0	8,299	100	67,552
NIUP	6,496	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,496
WC	15,292	6,995	592	0	4,441	0	310	27,630
PUP	29,698	0	0	0	0	260	45	30,003
SF	124,470	0	0	0	0	31,975	0	156,444
SDLP	144,653	0	3,865	0	3,030	20,019	28	171,595
SEA	6,131	0	160	1,941	0	433	0	8,665
GP	5,531	2,365	0	0	0	0	0	7,896
SP	0	0	0	0	0	5,114	0	5,114
WP	1,481	0	0	0	0	10,369	0	11,850
UKUP	20,236	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,236
UTW	1,435	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,435
UUP	169,338	0	967	49	35	6,329	1,162	177,880
UUC	5,154	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,154
VYP	1,363	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,363
All	751,527	17,239	8,413	1,990	10,509	105,608	1,645	896,930

Note: Party abbreviations are defined in Appendix 5.

Spending by joint candidates

3.82 There were 142 joint candidates standing for election at the Assembly elections in 2003. The expenditure limit of joint candidates is reduced by a quarter where the candidate stands with one other, or by a third where the candidate stands with two or more others. Table 9 shows the following points.

- The majority of Ulster Unionist Party joint candidates stood with two or more other candidates and with 22% standing with one other candidate.
- The majority of Social Democratic and Labour Party candidates stood with one other candidate (consisting of 62% of SDLP joint candidates).
- The majority of Sinn Féin candidates stood with two or more others (80% of their joint candidates). Notably, in one constituency five candidates stood as joint candidates.
- The majority of Democratic Unionist Party candidates stood with two or more other candidates (57% of DUP joint candidates).

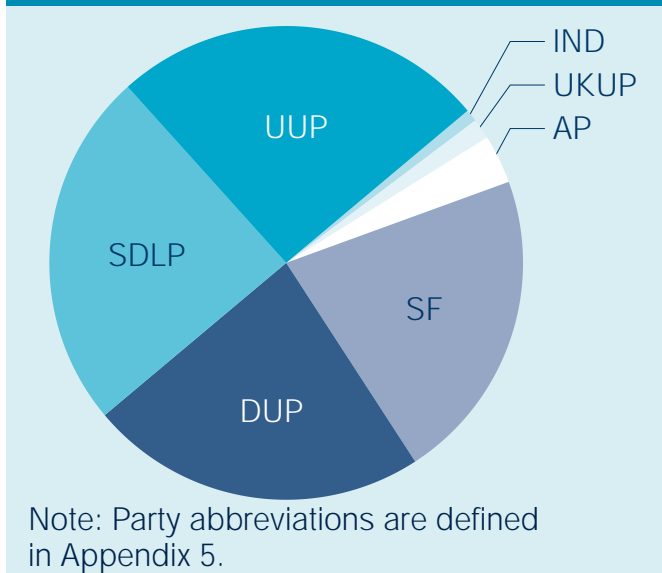
Table 9: Joint candidates by party

Party	Total candidates fielded	Total no. of joint candidates	Percentage of candidates standing as joint candidates (%)	Standing with one other	Standing with two or more others
AP	21	6	29	6	-
DUP	40	37	93	16	21
IND	22	2	9	2	-
SDLP	36	29	81	18	11
SF	38	30	79	6	24
UKUP	6	2	33	2	-
UUP	43	36	84	8	28

Note: Party abbreviations are defined in Appendix 5.

3.83 Figure 6 shows each parties proportion of expenditure incurred by their joint candidates.

Figure 6: Total expenditure of joint candidates, by party



3.84 The average joint candidate spent £3,858 compared to £3,062, the average spent by candidates not standing as joint candidates.

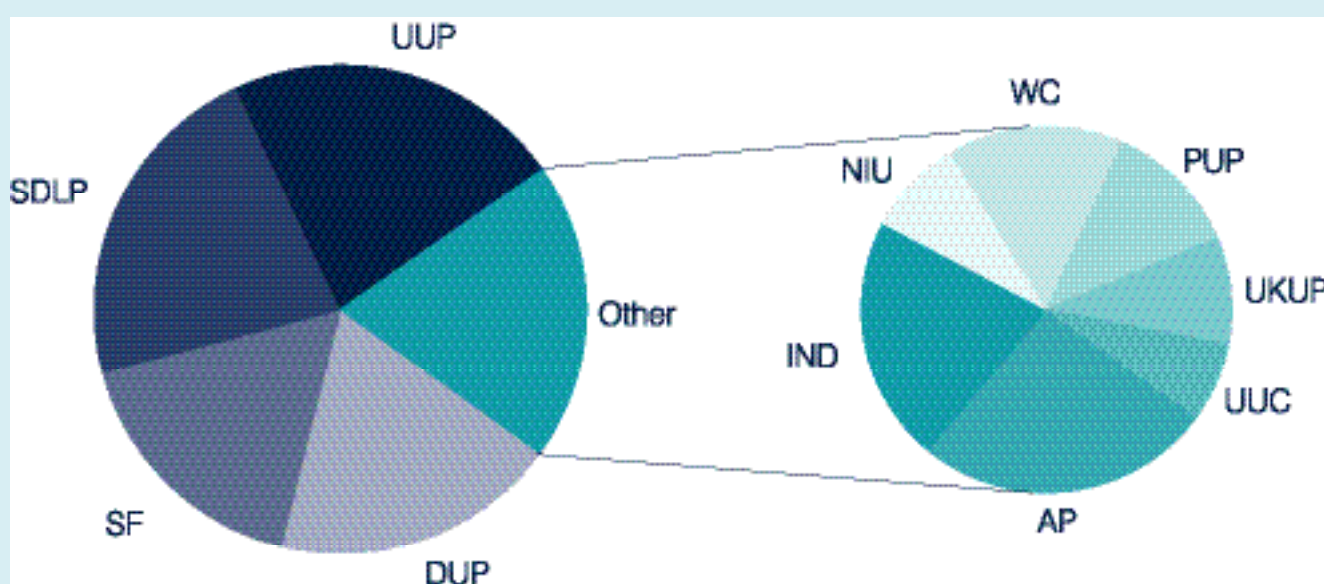
- Joint candidates representing the Social Democratic and Labour Party spent an average of £4,631. In contrast the average amount spent by candidates representing the Social Democratic and Labour party who did not stand as joint candidates was £5,328.
- The average amount spent by joint candidates representing the Democratic Unionist Party was £3,400, all of whom spent over 30% of their permitted maximum. Democratic Unionist Party candidates not standing jointly spent an average of £4,740.

- Joint candidates representing Sinn Féin spent £3,936 on average, compared to the £4,795 spent by Sinn Féin candidates not standing jointly.
- The average amount spent by joint candidates representing the Ulster Unionist Party spent £3,884, while candidates representing the party and not standing jointly spent an average of £5,615.
- Sixty-two per cent of joint candidates (89 candidates) spent over 50% of their permitted maximum expenditure limit. Only 49% of Democratic Unionist Party candidates spent over 50% of the permitted maximum limit compared to the 86% of the joint candidates representing the Social Democratic and Labour Party who spent over this amount.
- None of the joint candidates representing the Alliance Party spent over 50% of their permitted maximum, while two Alliance Party candidates that did not stand jointly spent over this amount.
- The two individual candidates who used the same Election Agent and therefore were considered to be joint candidates spent less than 30% of their permitted maximum.

Spending patterns by incumbent candidates

3.85 Thirty-four per cent of all candidates (87 candidates) were Assembly Members standing for re-election (64 of whom were re-elected). These candidates spent a total of £370,197, which is 41% of the total amount spent by all candidates. The average amount spent by an incumbent was £4,255, compared with £3,134 for other candidates.

Figure 7: Total expenditure by incumbent candidates by party



Note: Party abbreviations are defined in Appendix 5.

3.86 Figure 7 shows the proportion of expenditure by each party's incumbent candidates.

3.87 Twenty-nine per cent of all incumbents spent over 80% of the permitted maximum limit, compared to 16% of all candidates. Table 10 shows the following points.

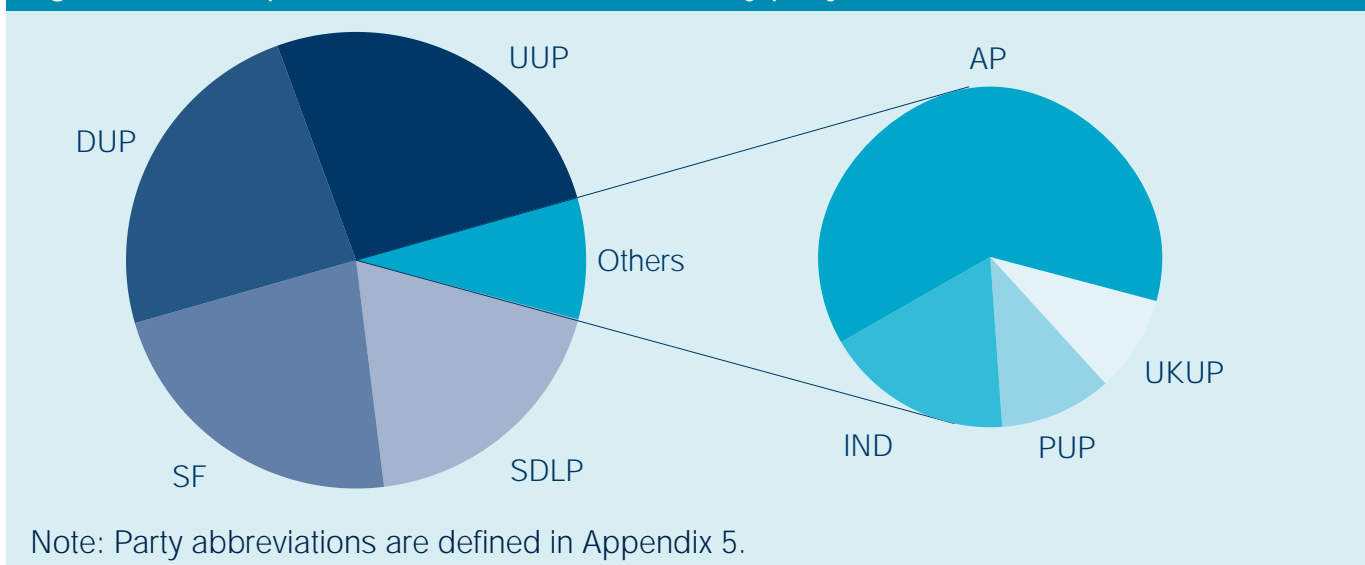
- Of the 19 incumbents fielded by the Democratic Unionist Party 26% (five candidates) spent over 70% of the permitted maximum. Of the 15 incumbent candidates representing Sinn Féin, 40% (six candidates) spent over this amount.
- Just over 41% of Ulster Unionist Party's incumbents and just under 39% of Social Democratic and Labour Party's incumbents spent over 80% of the permitted maximum limit.
- The five incumbents fielded by the Alliance Party spent between 30% and 60% of their permitted maximum limit.
- One of the individual incumbents spent over 90% of his permitted maximum limit, and no other individual candidate spent over this amount.

Table 10: Incumbent candidates by percentage of limit, by party

Party	Not declared	0	1–10	11–20	21–30	31–40	41–50	51–60	61–70	
AP	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	-	
DUP	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	5	-	
IND	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	
NIUP	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	
WC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
PUP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
SF	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	4	
SDLP	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4	2	
UKUP	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	
UUP	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	3	1	
UUC	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	
ALL	0	0	0	0	3	14	15	18	9	

Note: Party abbreviations are defined in Appendix 5.

Figure 8: Total expenditure of elected candidates by party



	71–80	81–90	91–100	Total
	-	-	-	5
	1	3	1	19
	-	-	1	3
	-	-	-	2
	-	-	-	2
	-	-	-	2
	-	5	1	15
	1	4	3	18
	-	-	-	2
	1	1	6	17
	-	-	-	2
	3	13	12	87

- Fourteen Democratic Unionist Party candidates (just under 47%) who were elected spent less than 50% of their permitted maximum.
- Five Sinn Féin candidates spent under 50% of their permitted maximum limit.
- The one elected individual candidate⁴⁸ spent £6,983.
- No elected candidate spent less than 20% of the permitted maximum.

Spending patterns by elected candidates

3.88 One hundred and eight candidates were elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly, and spent a total of £458,676. The average amount spent by a candidate elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly in 2003, was £4,247, compared to unsuccessful candidates who spent £2,961 on average. Of all elected candidates, 69% (74 candidates) spent more than 50% of their permitted maximum amount.

3.89 Figure 8 and Table 11 show the proportion of expenditure by each party's elected candidates.

- Just under 39% of the Social Democratic and Labour Party candidates spent over 80% of their permitted maximum.
- Of the Democratic Unionist Party candidates 20% of all those elected spent over 80% of their permitted maximum.

48 On a significant number of returns, candidates had declared a figure for their total expenditure that did not match the sum of the individual expenses they had reported. In a number of instances the difference in reported and calculated figures is due to the duplication of figures in more than one category, the inclusion of personal expenses in the election expenditure total or the failure to apportion the figures reported between the relevant candidates. We have included these figures as calculated, rather than as reported. Averages and percentages have been calculated from these figures.

Table 11: Elected candidates, by percentage of limit by party

Party	Not declared	0	1–10	11–20	21–30	31–40	41–50	51–60	61–70
AP	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	1
DUP	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	8	0
IND	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PUP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
SF	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	2	8
SDLP	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	3
UKUP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
UUP	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	6	1
All	0	0	0	0	1	14	18	22	13

Note: Party abbreviations are defined in Appendix 5.

Table 12: Party campaign expenditure and candidates' expenses

Party	Party campaign expenditure incurred (£)	Candidates' election expenses (£)	Total spending (£)
Social Democratic and Labour Party	234,911	171,595	406,506
Ulster Unionist Party	170,912	177,880	348,792
Democratic Unionist Party	147,867	140,030	287,897
Sinn Féin	28,766	156,444	185,210
Alliance Party	24,631	46,291	70,922
Progressive Unionist Party	11,321	30,003	41,324
Northern Ireland Women's Coalition	8,150	27,630	35,780
Conservative Party	7,221	11,297	18,518
The Workers Party	7,060	11,850	18,910
UK Unionist Party	5,190	20,236	25,426
Vote For Yourself Party	1,175	1,363	2,538
Green Party	1,043	7,896	8,939
Socialist Environmental Alliance	0	8,665	8,665
Northern Ireland Unionist Party	0	6,496	6,496
The Socialist Party (Northern Ireland)	0	5,114	5,114
The Ulster Third Way	0	1,435	1,435
United Unionist Coalition	0	5,154	5,154
Total	648,247	829,378	1,477,625

	71–80	81–90	91–100	Total
	-	-	-	6
	2	5	1	30
	1	-	-	1
	-	-	-	1
	1	6	2	24
	2	5	2	18
	-	-	-	1
	4	2	6	27
	10	18	11	108

Overall campaign spending

3.90 Table 12 indicates the overall expenditure by each party and the total expenditure candidates of those parties. These figures highlight notable correlations between the spending patterns of parties and their candidates.

3.91 The pattern of spending by the 17 parties contesting seats at the Assembly elections in 2003 is broadly similar to the pattern of expenditure identified at the 2001 Westminster election.

3.92 All parties other than the Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Democratic Unionist Party spent more in respect of candidates' election expenses than on their party campaign expenditure.

3.93 A number of the smaller parties reported very little or no campaign expenditure but spent a similar amount on average to the larger parties in respect of their candidates. In the case of the Socialist Environmental Alliance while the party incurred no expenditure, their candidates spent an average of £4,332 – more than the average

of all larger parties candidates except the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

3.94 An analysis of the expenditure returns from the different political parties suggests that the general pattern of spending at the Northern Ireland Assembly elections reflects a localised campaign with the total expenditure incurred by candidates greater than that spent by all parties.



VOTE
HERE ↓

4 Conclusions

This was the first Northern Ireland Assembly election at which parties were required to operate under the PPERA regulatory framework, and candidates were subject to amended, and more extensive, controls on the treatment and reporting of their election expenditure and donations. The picture that emerges from the review of returns by the Commission is that while the larger parties are increasingly adapting to the new rules, it is proving more difficult for smaller parties to comply with the revised requirements.

Political parties

4.1 This was the first election to the Northern Ireland Assembly at which parties were regulated under PPERA, although a number of parties that contested the election already had experience of operating within the PPERA framework from the 2001 Westminster election. Experience gained from the 2001 election provided valuable learning experience for the parties and the Commission. The Commission's review of campaign returns submitted after the 2003 election demonstrates that parties have built on previous experiences and are increasingly adapting to the requirements of PPERA. However there are significant differences between the large and small parties.

4.2 Reviews identified that a number of parties experienced some confusion with regard to the

distinction between party campaign expenditure and candidate election expenses. This had been identified in previous elections and specific guidance has been developed. Furthermore, 11 out of the 17 parties contesting the election submitted late campaign expenditure returns, indicating that the parties found the statutory deadlines difficult to comply with. These issues were raised with parties as part of the Commission's review process with advice given to enhance the parties understanding of the legislation and improve their processes.

4.3 The general pattern of spending at the Northern Ireland Assembly elections reflects a localised campaign, as the total expenditure incurred by candidates was greater than that spent by all parties centrally. An analysis of the reported expenditure patterns of the four larger parties suggests that they ran different campaigns, from which few general trends can be identified. The political parties spent very different amounts and did not concentrate their resources on similar areas of spending.

4.4 The Commission notes that different areas of spending indicated the distinct strategies used by the larger parties. Sinn Féin's reported expenditure suggests a concentration of resources on the individual candidates' campaigns. The smaller parties seem to have also used this model. The Social Democratic and Labour Party and Ulster Unionist Party appear to have concentrated their resources on raising their profile through advertising and other media related activities, including spends of over £25,000 on their party political broadcasts. The Democratic Unionist Party

spent almost £75,000 on producing their manifesto and other policy documents. In contrast no other party spent more than £7,500 on this area.

Candidates

4.5 The election expense returns submitted by 256 candidates contesting the November 2003 election provides a broad insight into their spending patterns. The Commission had identified a number of general trends and highlighted areas where candidates and agents need to improve compliance with the regulatory controls in the future.

4.6 This was the first Assembly election in Northern Ireland to take place under the current legislative requirements for candidates and the regulatory controls were significantly different from those in place at the 1998 Northern Ireland Assembly election. Not only have reporting requirements been amended but so too have other areas such as the date a person becomes a candidate, the inclusion of notional expenditure or benefit in kind as election expenditure and the introduction of donation controls on candidates.

4.7 The Commission notes that there appears to be significant confusion because of statutory changes and lack of familiarity with the new system. The Commission has recommended changes including proposals to provide a list of qualifying election expenses for candidates and to extend and standardise the regulated period for candidate's election expenses.

4.8 Following the Assembly election, candidates and agents expressed their concerns with regard to the complexity of the legislation and the reporting format that the Commission had provided. The Commission will consider how to revise and update reporting formats and has also recommended that legislative reporting requirements should be simplified. The aim would be to reduce the administrative burden placed on candidates and agents, while allowing the Commission to develop a more comprehensive and accurate picture of candidates' spending at future elections.

4.9 The requirement in respect of making claims and payments within the statutory time limits has proved to be problematic for the candidates and agents at these elections. The last dates for payment of the election expenses at this election was during the Christmas period and making a payment at this time was not always possible, which significantly reduced the time limit for making payments.

4.10 We anticipate that at future elections, other areas of concern identified in this report such as the treatment of notional expenditure, will be more widely understood by candidates and agents following review of the returns by the Commission and consultation with parties, candidates, Election Agents and electoral administrators. The Commission considers that the provision of guidance and training will improve understanding of current legislative requirements and consistency in the reporting of election expenses.

Future work programme

4.11 The Commission will continue to enhance the guidance available to parties and candidates and has already taken steps to do this for issues identified in advance of the 2003 election and as a result of its compliance reviews.

4.12 The Commission also intends to undertake follow-up work to ensure that recommendations made to improve the internal processes of parties are being implemented, and to assess how well these plans are working in practice.

4.13 The Commission will continue its role providing guidance and assistance to parties, agents and candidates through workshops to enhance understanding of legislative requirements.

4.14 The Commission will continue the process of developing protocols with the police service and Director of Public Prosecutions in Northern Ireland to ensure that any breaches in the law are managed efficiently and effectively.



Appendix 1

List of parties

Parties that contested the 2003 Northern Ireland Assembly election

Alliance Party
Conservative Party
Democratic Unionist Party
Green Party
Northern Ireland Unionist Party
Northern Ireland Women's Coalition
Progressive Unionist Party
Sinn Féin
Social Democratic and Labour Party
Socialist Environmental Alliance
The Socialist Party (Northern Ireland)
UK Unionist Party
The Ulster Third Way
United Unionist Coalition
Ulster Unionist Party
The Vote For Yourself Party
The Workers Party

Appendix 2

Information submitted in campaign expenditure return

Note: Some returns were amended following compliance checks. Original figures submitted to the Commission are shown in **light blue bold**.

1. Alliance Party of Northern Ireland	
Total expenditure	Total (£)
Payments made	20,971.07
Notional expenditure incurred	3,660.00
Notional expenditure incurred	3,830.00
Unpaid claims	0.00
Disputed claims	0.00
Total	24,631.00
Total	24,801.07
Number of constituencies contested	18
Expenditure by type	Total (£)
A. Party political broadcasts	12,755.00
B. Advertising	0.00
C. Unsolicited material to electors	3,000.16
D. Manifesto/party political documents	2,807.50
Manifesto/party political documents	1,807.50
E. Market research/canvassing	0.00
F. Media	80.00
G. Transport	0.00
H. Rallies and other events	4,488.00
Rallies and other events	1,828.41
I. Overheads and general admin.	1,500.00
Total	24,630.66
Total	24,971.07

2. Conservative and Unionist Party	
Total expenditure	Total (£)
Payments made	7220.84
Payments made	0.00
Notional expenditure incurred	0.00
Unpaid claims	0.00
Disputed claims	0.00
Total	7,720.84
Total	0.00
Number of constituencies contested	6
Expenditure by type	Total (£)
A. Party political broadcasts	7720.84
Party political broadcasts	0.00
B. Advertising	0.00
C. Unsolicited material to electors	0.00
D. Manifesto/party political documents	0.00
E. Market research/canvassing	0.00
F. Media	0.00
G. Transport	0.00
H. Rallies and other events	0.00
I. Overheads and general admin.	0.00
Total	7,720.84
Total	0.00

3. Democratic Unionist Party	
Total expenditure	Total (£)
Payments made	134,026.00
Notional expenditure incurred	5,827.54
Unpaid claims	0.00
Disputed claims	8,013.50
Total	147,867.04
Number of constituencies contested	18
Expenditure by type	Total (£)
A. Party political broadcasts	8,207.00
B. Advertising	28,353.00
C. Unsolicited material to electors	4427.26
Unsolicited material to electors	0.00
D. Manifesto/party political documents	74,580.63
Manifesto/party political documents	66,880.00
E. Market research/canvassing	0.00
F. Media	1,174.00
G. Transport	28,875.00
H. Rallies and other events	0.00
I. Overheads and general admin.	2250.11
Overheads and general admin.	14,378.00
Total	147,867.00

4. The Green Party	
Total expenditure	Total (£)
Payments made	1,043.00
Notional expenditure incurred	0.00
Notional expenditure incurred	100.00
Unpaid claims	0.00
Disputed claims	0.00
Total	1,043.00
Total	1,143.00
Number of constituencies contested	6
Expenditure by type	Total (£)
A. Party political broadcasts	1,043.00
B. Advertising	0.00
C. Unsolicited material to electors	0.00
D. Manifesto/party political documents	0.00
E. Market research/canvassing	0.00
F. Media	0.00
G. Transport	0.00
H. Rallies and other events	0.00
I. Overheads and general admin.	0.00
Overheads and general admin.	100.00
Total	1,043.00
Total	1,143.00

5. Northern Ireland Unionist Party

Total expenditure	Total (£)
Payments made	0.00
Notional expenditure incurred	0.00
Unpaid claims	0.00
Disputed claims	0.00
Total	0.00

Number of constituencies contested 2

Expenditure by type	Total (£)
A. Party political broadcasts	0.00
B. Advertising	0.00
C. Unsolicited material to electors	0.00
D. Manifesto/party political documents	0.00
E. Market research/canvassing	0.00
F. Media	0.00
G. Transport	0.00
H. Rallies and other events	0.00
I. Overheads and general admin.	0.00
Total	0.00

6. Northern Ireland Womens Coalition

Total expenditure	Total (£)
Payments made	8,150.00
Notional expenditure incurred	0.00
Unpaid claims	0.00
Disputed claims	0.00
Total	8,150.00

Number of constituencies contested 7

Expenditure by type	Total (£)
A. Party political broadcasts	3,416.00
B. Advertising	2,740.00
C. Unsolicited material to electors	66.00
D. Manifesto/party political documents	750.00
E. Market research/canvassing	0.00
F. Media	0.00
G. Transport	46.00
H. Rallies and other events	553.00
I. Overheads and general admin.	579.00
Total	8,150.00

7. Progressive Unionist Party	
Total expenditure	Total (£)
Payments made	11,321.10
Payments made	37,576.00
Notional expenditure incurred	0.00
Notional expenditure incurred	2,465.00
Unpaid claims	0.00
Disputed claims	0.00
Total	11,321.10
Total	40,041.00
Number of constituencies contested	11
Expenditure by type	Total (£)
A. Party political broadcasts	5,016.00
B. Advertising	4,702.10
Advertising	17,237.00
C. Unsolicited material to electors	135.00
Unsolicited material to electors	13,905.00
D. Manifesto/party political documents	1,047.00
Manifesto/party political documents	997.00
E. Market research/canvassing	144.00
F. Media	0.00
G. Transport	0.00
H. Rallies and other events	0.00
I. Overheads and general admin.	277.00
Total	11,321.10
Total	40,041.00

8. SDLP (Social Democratic and Labour Party)	
Total expenditure	Total (£)
Payments made	217,780.73
Notional expenditure incurred	17,130.58
Unpaid claims	0.00
Disputed claims	0.00
Total	234,911.31
Number of constituencies contested	18
Expenditure by type	Total (£)
A. Party political broadcasts	25,862.77
B. Advertising	97,973.38
Advertising	86,832.42
C. Unsolicited material to electors	465.00
D. Manifesto/party political documents	3,210.57
Manifesto/party political documents	649.29
E. Market research/canvassing	22,287.20
F. Media	71,074.56
Media	60,037.70
G. Transport	2,525.50
Transport	765.50
H. Rallies and other events	2,036.17
I. Overheads and general admin.	9,476.16
Overheads and general admin.	18,844.68
Total	234,911.31

9. Sinn Féin

Total expenditure	Total (£)
Payments made	28,765.73
Notional expenditure incurred	0.00
Unpaid claims	0.00
Disputed claims	0.00
Total	28,765.73

Number of constituencies contested 18

Expenditure by type	Total (£)
A. Party political broadcasts	3,219.82
B. Advertising	13,699.58
C. Unsolicited material to electors	0.00
D. Manifesto/party political documents	3,099.41
E. Market research/canvassing	430.00
F. Media	6,562.27
G. Transport	543.00
H. Rallies and other events	532.20
I. Overheads and general admin.	679.45
Total	28,765.73

10. Socialist Environmental Alliance

Total expenditure	Total (£)
Payments made	0.00
Payments made	8,306.73
Notional expenditure incurred	0.00
Notional expenditure incurred	433.33
Unpaid claims	0.00
Disputed claims	0.00
Total	0.00
Total	8,740.06

Number of constituencies contested 2

Expenditure by type	Total (£)
A. Party political broadcasts	0.00
B. Advertising	0.00
C. Unsolicited material to electors	0.00
Unsolicited material to electors	6,618.25
D. Manifesto/party political documents	0.00
E. Market research/canvassing	0.00
F. Media	0.00
G. Transport	0.00
H. Rallies and other events	0.00
I. Overheads and general admin.	0.00
Overheads and general admin.	1,528.48
Total	0.00
Total	8,146.73

11. The Socialist Party (Northern Ireland)

Total expenditure	Total (£)
Payments made	0.00
Notional expenditure incurred	0.00
Unpaid claims	0.00
Disputed claims	0.00
Total	0.00

Number of constituencies contested	2
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Expenditure by type	Total (£)
A. Party political broadcasts	0.00
B. Advertising	0.00
C. Unsolicited material to electors	0.00
D. Manifesto/party political documents	0.00
E. Market research/canvassing	0.00
F. Media	0.00
G. Transport	0.00
H. Rallies and other events	0.00
I. Overheads and general admin.	0.00

12. The Ulster Third Way

Total expenditure	Total (£)
Payments made	0.00
Notional expenditure incurred	0.00
Unpaid claims	0.00
Disputed claims	0.00
Total	0.00

Number of constituencies contested	1
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Expenditure by type	Total (£)
A. Party political broadcasts	0.00
B. Advertising	0.00
C. Unsolicited material to electors	0.00
D. Manifesto/party political documents	0.00
E. Market research/canvassing	0.00
F. Media	0.00
G. Transport	0.00
H. Rallies and other events	0.00
I. Overheads and general admin.	0.00
Total	0.00

13. Ulster Unionist Party

Total expenditure	Total (£)
Payments made	170,912.27
Notional expenditure incurred	0.00
Unpaid claims	0.00
Disputed claims	0.00
Total	170,912.27
Number of constituencies contested	18
Number of regions contested	0
Expenditure by type	Total (£)
A. Party political broadcasts	34,958.60
B. Advertising	109,836.10
Advertising	108,066.10
C. Unsolicited material to electors	0.00
D. Manifesto/party political documents	7,138.38
E. Market research/canvassing	0.00
F. Media	15,398.38
G. Transport	1,854.93
H. Rallies and other events	724.77
I. Overheads and general admin.	1,001.11
Overheads and general admin.	2,771.11
Total	170,912.27

14. United Kingdom Unionist Party

Total expenditure	Total (£)
Payments made	190.00
Notional expenditure incurred	5,000.00
Unpaid claims	0.00
Disputed claims	0.00
Total	5,190.00
Number of constituencies contested	5
Number of regions contested	0
Expenditure by type	Total (£)
A. Party political broadcasts	5,000.00
Party political broadcasts	0.00
B. Advertising	0.00
C. Unsolicited material to electors	0.00
D. Manifesto/party political documents	0.00
E. Market research/canvassing	0.00
F. Media	80.00
G. Transport	0.00
H. Rallies and other events	0.00
I. Overheads and general admin.	110.00
Total	5,190.00

15. United Unionist Coalition	
Total expenditure	Total (£)
Payments made	0.00
Notional expenditure incurred	0.00
Unpaid claims	0.00
Disputed claims	0.00
Total	0.00
Number of constituencies contested	2
Expenditure by type	Total (£)
A. Party political broadcasts	0.00
B. Advertising	0.00
C. Unsolicited material to electors	0.00
D. Manifesto/party political documents	0.00
E. Market research/canvassing	0.00
F. Media	0.00
G. Transport	0.00
H. Rallies and other events	0.00
I. Overheads and general admin.	0.00

16. The Vote For Yourself Party	
Total expenditure	Total (£)
Payments made	1,175.00
Notional expenditure incurred	0.00
Unpaid claims	0.00
Disputed claims	0.00
Total	0.00
Number of constituencies contested	3
Expenditure by type	Total (£)
A. Party political broadcasts	1,175.00
B. Advertising	0.00
C. Unsolicited material to electors	0.00
D. Manifesto/party political documents	0.00
E. Market research/canvassing	0.00
F. Media	0.00
G. Transport	0.00
H. Rallies and other events	0.00
I. Overheads and general admin.	0.00

17. The Workers Party

Total expenditure	Total (£)
Payments made	7,060.00
Payments made	0.00
Notional expenditure incurred	0.00
Unpaid claims	0.00
Disputed claims	0.00
Total	7,060.00
Total	0.00

Number of constituencies contested	8
Number of regions contested	0

Expenditure by type	Total (£)
A. Party political broadcasts	950.00
Party political broadcasts	0.00
B. Advertising	6,110.00
Advertising	0.00
C. Unsolicited material to electors	0.00
D. Manifesto/party political documents	0.00
E. Market research/canvassing	0.00
F. Media	0.00
G. Transport	0.00
H. Rallies and other events	0.00
I. Overheads and general admin.	0.00
Total	7,060.00
Total	0.00

Appendix 3

The Northern Ireland Assembly Elections (Registered Parties and Candidates) Reimbursement Scheme 2003

The Electoral Commission was required to submit recommendations to the Secretary of State for the terms of the reimbursement scheme under the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections and Periods of Suspension) Act 2003.⁴⁹ The terms set reflected the definition of election expenditure contained in the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA) and PPERA. Parties and candidates could only receive reimbursement for election expenditure that complied with criteria set by the scheme.

The scheme was administered by the Commission, who made recommendations to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on the claims submitted by parties and candidates. Decisions on payment were a matter for government. Twelve parties made claims for a total of £531,954.70, of which £442,879.80 was paid (see Table 13).

Table 13: Party claims and payments (all figures are in pounds)

Party	Total claim	Sum of paid claims	Sum of rejected claims
AP	40,401	30,399	10,002
CON	1,410	1,410	0
DUP	147,273	147,273	0
GP	4,699	4,233	466
NIWC	34,865	34,152	713
PUP	4,021	4,021	0
SDLP	85,628	85,628	
SF	32,260	32,260	0
SP	7,029	6,929	100
UKUP	2,424	2,424	0
UTW	3,450	3,450	0
UUP	149,550	90,701	58,849
Grand total	531,953	442,879	89,074
As percentage of total processed		83.3%	16.7%

Note: Party abbreviations are defined in Appendix 5.

⁴⁹ The Northern Ireland Assembly Election (Registered Parties and Candidates) Reimbursement Scheme 2003 as required under Section 3(5) of the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections and Periods of Suspension) Act 2003.

Candidates made 92 claims amounting to £86,461 of which £72,325 was reimbursed. Criteria for payment were closely aligned to the principles that control candidates' election expenditure.

Appendix 4

Categories of campaign expenditure: Schedule 8 to PPERA

Campaign Expenditure: Qualifying Expenses Part 1 Qualifying Expenses

Expenses qualifying where incurred for election purposes

1. For the purposes of Section 72(2) the expenses falling within this Part of this Schedule are expenses incurred in respect of any of the matters set out in the following list.

List of matters

- (1) Party political broadcasts.

Expenses in respect of such broadcasts include agency fees, design costs and other costs in connection with preparing or producing such broadcasts.

- (2) Advertising of any nature (whatever the medium used).

Expenses in respect of such advertising include agency fees, design costs and other costs in connection with preparing, producing, distributing or otherwise disseminating such advertising or anything incorporating such advertising and intended to be distributed for the purpose of disseminating it.

- (3) Unsolicited material addressed to electors (whether addressed to them by name or intended for delivery to households within any particular area or areas).

Expenses in respect of such materials include design costs and other costs in connection with preparing, producing or distributing such material (including the cost of postage)

- (4) Any manifesto or other document setting out the party's policies.

Expenses in respect of such a document include design cost and other costs in connection with preparing or producing or distributing or otherwise disseminating any such document.

- (5) Market research or canvassing conducted for the purpose of ascertaining polling intentions.

- (6) The provision of any services or facilities in connection with press conferences or other dealings with the media.

- (7) Transport (by any means) of persons to any place or places with a view to obtaining publicity in connection with an election campaign.

Expenses in respect of the transport of such persons include the costs of hiring a particular means of transport for the whole or part of the period during which the election campaign is being conducted.

- (8) Rallies and other events, including public meetings (but not annual or other party conferences) organised so as to obtain publicity in connection with an election campaign or for other purposes connected with an election campaign.

Expenses in respect of such an event include costs incurred in connection with the attendance of persons at such events, the hire of premises for the purposes of such events or the provision of goods, services or facilities at them.

Exclusions

2. Nothing in paragraph 1 shall be taken as extending to:
 - (a) any expenses in respect of newsletters or similar publications issued by or on behalf of the party with a view to giving electors in a particular electoral area information about the opinions or activities of, or other personal information relating to, their elected representatives or existing or prospective candidates;
 - (b) any expenses incurred in respect of unsolicited material addressed to party members;
 - (c) any expenses in respect of any property, services or facilities so far as those expenses fall to be met out of public funds;
 - (d) any expenses incurred in respect of the remuneration or allowances payable to any member of the staff (whether permanent or otherwise) of the party; or
 - (e) any expenses incurred in respect of an individual by way of travelling expenses (by any means of transport) or in providing for his accommodation or other personal needs to the extent that the expenses are paid by the individual from his own resources and are not reimbursed to him.

Appendix 5

Table 14: Candidates' election expenses at the 2003 Northern Ireland Assembly election

Explanatory notes and definitions Constituency details

Name of constituency

Constituencies are listed in alphabetical order.

Type of constituency

The type of constituency, borough (B) or county (C) is indicated after the constituency name, since the type of constituency governs the formula to be used in calculating the legal maximum for a candidate's expenses.

Name of candidates

The names of candidate are listed alphabetically by party, then by candidates' surnames. The names of the candidates elected in each constituency are highlighted in bold.

Electorate

Electorate figures used for the calculation of expenditure limits. Each figure was independently confirmed with relevant electoral services department for that constituency as the figures used for the calculation of limits.

Party

The party affiliation of the candidate. Candidates may only include a description in the nomination papers and on the ballot paper if it has been authorised by a registered political party. All unaffiliated candidates must either use the label 'independent' with no further description, or provide no description on the ballot paper at all.

Registered party names and abbreviation for descriptions used by candidates are listed below.

Individual candidates, who stood under the description 'independent' or who stood under no description on the ballot, are referred as 'IND' for the purposes of abbreviation.

Abbrev.	Party
SDLP	Social Democratic and Labour Party
UUP	Ulster Unionist Party
DUP	Democratic Unionist Party
SF	Sinn Féin
APNI	Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
PUP	Progressive Unionist Party
NIWC	Northern Ireland Women's Coalition
CON	Conservative and Unionist Party
WP	The Workers Party
UKUP	UK Unionist Party
VFYP	Vote For Yourself Party
GP	Green Party
SEA	Socialist Environmentalist Alliance
NIUP	Northern Ireland Unionist Party
SP	The Socialist Party (Northern Ireland)
UTW	The Ulster Third Way
UUC	United Unionist Coalition
IND	Individual candidates

Categories of election expenditure

Details of election expenditure for each candidate are shown under the relevant categories specified by the form of return to be submitted by the candidate. The penultimate column shows the total declared expenditure subject to the legal maximum limit, which is shown in the final column. Candidates' personal expenses are not subject to the legal limit.

All total expenditure figures within these tables are as calculated, rather than as reported. A significant number of returns candidates had declared a figure for their total expenditure that did not match the sum of the individual expenses they had reported. In a number of instances the difference in reported and calculated figures is due to the duplication of figures in more than one category, the inclusion of personal expenses or the candidate deposit in the election expenditure total or the failure to apportion the figures reported between the relevant candidates.

Conventions used in the table

A hyphen (-) is used to denote nil, or where no figure has been reported under the category of expenditure.

An asterisk (*) denotes figure duplicated, not included in total reported expenses.

Two asterisks (**) denotes deposit of £150 included in total.

Elected candidates are shown in bold.

Table 14: Candidate election expenses

Constituency	Type	Elec- torate	Candidate		Party	Personal expenses (£)	Payments made by agent	Payments made by candidate
			Surname	Forname				
Belfast East	B	51,849	Long	Naomi R	AP	0.00	5,198.98	0.00
			Dick	Terence S	CON		105.10	106.98
			Newton	Robin	DUP	0.00	3,575.59	0.00
			Robinson	Peter	DUP	0.00	3,575.59	0.00
			Toan	Harry	DUP	0.00	3,575.59	0.00
			McBlain	John A	IND	0.00	230.00	**150.00
			Ervine	David W	PUP	0.00	3,904.49	0.00
			Van Es	Leo H	SDLP	0.00	2,479.17	0.00
			O'Donnell	Joseph	SF	0.00	1,408.83	0.00
			Black	Thomas E	SP	0.00	0.00	0.00
			Copeland	Michael S	UUP	0.00	3,934.82	0.00
			Empey	Reg	UUP	0.00	3,934.82	0.00
			Rodgers	Jim	UUP	0.00	3,934.82	0.00
			Weiss	George	VFYP	*1321.76	1,362.89	0.00
			Bell	Joseph	WP	0.00	0.00	0.00
			Belfast North	B	51,353	Hawkins	Margaret J	AP
Dodds	Nigel A	DUP				0.00	3,809.14	0.00
McCausland	Nelson	DUP				0.00	3,809.14	0.00
Emerson	Peter	GP				**150.00	590.81	**150.00
McCord	Raymond	IND				0.00	0.00	0.00
McCoubrey	Frank S	IND				0.00	6,577.08	0.00
Hutchinson	William	PUP				0.00	4,620.19	0.00
Convery	Pat	SDLP				0.00	2,941.97	0.00
Maginness	Alban	SDLP				0.00	2,941.97	0.00
Kelly	Gerry	SF				0.00	1,759.21	0.00
Stanton	Kathy	SF				0.00	1,759.21	0.00
Agnew	Fraser	UUC				2,125.00	2,125.00	0.00
Cobain	Fred	UUP				0.00	5,350.81	0.00
Gallagher	John Leo	VFYP				0.00	0.00	0.00
Byrne McCullough	Eliz	WC				0.00	635.50	877.14
Delaney	Marcella	WP				0.00	0.00	0.00
Belfast South	B	50,707	Ekin	Tom	AP	0.00	2,736.03	0.00
			Rice	Geraldine	AP	0.00	2,736.04	0.00

Key: * Figure duplicated, not included in total reported expenses ** Deposit of £150 included in total

Expenditure incurred (£) – subject to legal maximum

Petty expenditure	Unpaid claims	Disputed claims	Incurred prior to becoming a candidate	Total reported expenses	Incurred prior to becoming a candidate	Total reported expenses	Joint candidate	Statutory limit
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,198.98		7,868.05
1,937.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,149.46		7,868.05
0.00	0.00	0.00	260.08	200.00	0.00	4,035.67	3	5,245.37
0.00	0.00	0.00	260.08	200.00	0.00	4,035.67	3	5,245.37
0.00	0.00	0.00	260.08	200.00	0.00	4,035.67	3	5,245.37
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	380.00		7,868.05
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	45.00	4,049.49		7,868.05
0.00	0.00	0.00	210.00	0.00	0.00	2,689.17		7,868.05
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,408.83		7,868.05
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,557.06	0.00	2,557.06		7,868.05
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	274.30	0.00	4,209.12	3	5,245.37
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	274.30	0.00	4,209.12	3	5,245.37
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	274.30	0.00	4,209.12	3	5,245.37
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,362.89		7,868.05
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,481.25	0.00	1,481.25		7,868.05
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	772.00		7,845.24
0.00	0.00	0.00	802.30	200.00	0.00	4,811.44	2	5,883.93
0.00	0.00	0.00	802.30	200.00	0.00	4,811.44	2	5,883.93
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	740.81		7,845.24
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		7,845.24
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,577.08		7,845.24
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,620.19		7,845.24
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,941.97	2	5,883.93
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,941.97	2	5,883.93
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,918.17	0.00	3,677.38	2	5,883.93
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,918.17	0.00	3,677.38	2	5,883.93
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,125.00		7,845.24
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,350.81		7,845.24
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		7,845.24
4.29	0.00	0.00	669.05	0.00	0.00	2,185.98		7,845.24
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,481.25	0.00	1,481.25		7,845.24
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,736.03	2	5,861.64
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,736.04	2	5,861.64

Table 14: Candidate election expenses cont.

Constituency	Type	Elec- torate	Candidate		Party	Personal expenses (£)	Payments made by agent	Payments made by candidate
			Surname	Forname				
			Lomas	Roger	CON	0.00	1,665.06	0.00
			Patterson	Ruth F	DUP	0.00	0.00	3,065.46
			Robinson	Simon M P	DUP	0.00	3,235.14	1,639.76
			Wright	John R	GP	38.82	483.03	0.00
			Morrow	Thomas J	PUP	0.00	2,091.78	0.00
			Hanna	Carmel	SDLP	0.00	3,455.06	0.00
			McDonnell	Alasdair	SDLP	0.00	3,131.19	0.00
			Maskey	Alex	SF	0.00	7,408.23	0.00
			Barbour	James E	SP	0.00	0.00	0.00
			Birnie	John E	UUP	0.00	4,080.09	0.00
			Hiddleston	John A	UUP	0.00	2,634.59	0.00
			McGimpsey	Micheal	UUP	0.00	3,781.59	0.00
			Steven	Lindsay M	VFYP	0.00	0.00	0.00
			McWilliams	Monica	WC	0.00	4,364.22	0.00
			Lynn	Patrick	WP	0.00	0.00	0.00
Belfast West	B	50,872	Ayers	Mary	AP	0.00	702.00	0.00
			Dodds	Diane	DUP	0.00	3,795.98	0.00
			MacVicar	John	IND	0.00	482.39	0.00
			Smyth	Hugh	PUP	0.00	3,652.08	0.00
			Attwood	Alex	SDLP	0.00	3,841.17	0.00
			Hendron	Joe	SDLP	0.00	3,870.02	0.00
			Adams	Gerry	SF	0.00	1,956.89	0.00
			de Brun	Baibre	SF	0.00	1,956.89	0.00
			Ferguson	Michael	SF	0.00	1,956.89	0.00
			McCann	Francis	SF	0.00	1,956.89	0.00
			Ramsey	Sue	SF	0.00	2,196.89	0.00
			Kerr	David	UTW	0.00	**1,434.75	0.00
			McGimpsey	Christopher	UUP	0.00	1,719.85	0.00
			Lowry	John	WP	0.00	0.00	0.00
East Antrim	C	55,476	Dickson	Stewart C	AP	0.00	3,186.10	0.00
			Neeson	Sean	AP	0.00	3,186.10	0.00
			Greer	Alan James	CON	0.00	1,442.90	0.00
			Dawson	Thomas G	DUP	0.00	1,816.79	0.00

Expenditure incurred (£) – subject to legal maximum

Petty expenditure	Unpaid claims	Disputed claims	Incurred prior to becoming a candidate	Total reported expenses	Incurred prior to becoming a candidate	Total reported expenses	Joint candidate	Statutory limit
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,665.06		7,815.52
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,065.46	2	5,861.64
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,874.90	2	5,861.64
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	483.03		7,815.52
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,091.78		7,815.52
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	65.00	0.00	3,520.06	2	5,861.64
0.00	0.00	0.00	840.00	0.00	0.00	3,971.19	2	5,861.64
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,408.23		7,815.52
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,557.06	0.00	2,557.06		7,815.52
78.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	634.89	4,843.83	3	5,215.95
81.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,716.58	3	5,215.95
793.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	526.72	5,101.52	3	5,215.95
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		7,815.52
460.00	0.00	0.00	197.43	0.00	309.74	5,331.39		7,815.52
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,481.25	0.00	1,481.25		7,815.52
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	702.00		7,823.11
0.00	0.00	0.00	352.50	250.00	0.00	4,398.48		7,823.11
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	482.39		7,823.11
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.00	0.00	3,712.08		7,823.11
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,182.64	0.00	5,023.81	2	5,867.33
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,182.64	0.00	5,052.66	2	5,867.33
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,413.58	0.00	3,370.47	5	5,218.01
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,413.58	0.00	3,370.47	5	5,218.01
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,413.58	0.00	3,370.47	5	5,218.01
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,413.58	0.00	3,370.47	5	5,218.01
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,413.58	0.00	3,610.47	5	5,218.01
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,434.75		7,823.11
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,719.85		7,823.11
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,481.25	0.00	1,481.25		7,823.11
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,186.10	2	6,691.88
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,186.10	2	6,691.88
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,442.90		8,922.51
0.00	0.00	0.00	72.03	200.00	0.00	2,088.82	3	5,951.31

Table 14: Candidate election expenses cont.

Constituency	Type	Elec- torate	Candidate		Party	Personal expenses (£)	Payments made by agent	Payments made by candidate
			Surname	Forname				
			Hilditch	David W	DUP	0.00	1,816.79	0.00
			Wilson	Sammy	DUP	0.00	1,816.79	0.00
			Frew	Andrew R	GP	326.12	879.25	0.00
			Anderson	John Hugh	IND	0.00	1,200.00	0.00
			Hutchinson	Roger N	IND	0.00	4,295.00	0.00
			Mason	Robert L	IND	0.00	0.00	2,876.40
			Mckee	Jack	IND	0.00	4,679.69	0.00
			Howarth	Carolyn	PUP	0.00	2,433.88	0.00
			O'Connor	Daniel G	SDLP	0.00	2,959.52	0.00
			McMullan	Oliver	SF	0.00	350.00	0.00
			Robinson	Thomas D	UKUP	68.00	2,697.89	0.00
			Beggs	Roy	UUP	0.00	2,353.45	0.00
			Robinson	Ken	UUP	0.00	2,212.49	0.00
			McCune	Roy	UUP	0.00	2,091.44	0.00
			Monaghan	Anne	WC	0.00	1,408.00	0.00
East Londonderry	C	56,201	Boyle	Yvonne	AP	0.00	777.00	0.00
			Bradley	John M	DUP	0.00	2,015.34	0.00
			Campbell	Gregory L	DUP	0.00	2,015.34	0.00
			Robinson	George H	DUP	0.00	2,015.34	0.00
			Coyle	Michael	SDLP	0.00	2,066.62	0.00
			Dallat	John J	SDLP	0.00	2,240.12	0.00
			Baur	Marion	SEA	0.00	3,065.25	0.00
			Brolly	Francis RG	SF	0.00	212.54	0.00
			O'Kane	Cliona	SF	0.00	212.54	0.00
			Armitage	Pauline EA	UKUP	0.00	3,399.64	0.00
			Douglas	Albert B	UUC	0.00	3,029.29	0.00
			Hillis	Norman F	UUP	306.25	2,740.46	0.00
			McClarty	David	UUP	125.00	2,342.59	0.00
			Stevenson	Edwin A	UUP	262.50	2,638.58	0.00
Fermanagh and S. Tyrone	C	64,349	Cleland	Linda	AP	0.00	712.00	0.00
			Johnson	Robert John	DUP	0.00	3,271.81	0.00
			Morrow	Maurice	DUP	0.00	3,323.24	0.00
			Britton	Frank J	SDLP	0.00	4,503.07	0.00

Expenditure incurred (£) – subject to legal maximum

Petty expenditure	Unpaid claims	Disputed claims	Incurred prior to becoming a candidate	Total reported expenses	Incurred prior to becoming a candidate	Total reported expenses	Joint candidate	Statutory limit
0.00	0.00	0.00	72.03	200.00	0.00	2,088.82	3	5,951.31
0.00	0.00	0.00	72.03	200.00	0.00	2,088.82	3	5,951.31
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	879.25		8,922.51
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00		8,922.51
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,295.00		8,922.51
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,876.40		8,922.51
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,679.69		8,922.51
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,433.88		8,922.51
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,309.90	0.00	5,269.42		8,922.51
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	918.80	0.00	1,268.80		8,922.51
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,697.89		8,922.51
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,353.45	3	5,951.31
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,212.49	3	5,951.31
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,091.44	3	5,951.31
77.00	0.00	0.00	445.00	0.00	0.00	1,930.00		8,922.51
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	777.00		8,967.46
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	166.66	0.00	2,182.00	3	5,978.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	166.66	0.00	2,182.00	3	5,978.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	166.66	0.00	2,182.00	3	5,978.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,066.62	2	6,725.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,240.12	2	6,725.00
80.10	970.44	0.00	0.00	216.66	0.00	4,332.45		8,967.46
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,410.39	0.00	2,622.93	2	6,725.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,410.39	0.00	2,622.93	2	6,725.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,399.64		8,967.46
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,029.29		8,967.46
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,740.46	3	5,978.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,342.59	3	5,978.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,638.58	3	5,978.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	712.00	N	9,472.64
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	3,371.81	2	7,104.75
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	3,423.24	2	7,104.75
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,503.07	2	7,104.75

Table 14: Candidate election expenses cont.

Constituency	Type	Elec- torate	Candidate		Party	Personal expenses (£)	Payments made by agent	Payments made by candidate
			Surname	Forname				
			Gallagher	Tommy	SDLP	500.00	5,437.59	0.00
			McHugh	Gerard J J	SF	0.00	4,815.61	0.00
			O'Reilly	Hugh T	SF	0.00	4,815.61	0.00
			Gildernew	Michelle	SF	0.00	4,989.61	0.00
			Elliot	Thomas B	UUP	183.05	3,551.92	0.00
			Foster	Arlene	UUP	77.45	3,551.92	0.00
			Mulligan	Robert L	UUP	0.00	3,551.94	0.00
			McNulty	Eithne	WC	200.00	818.19	6,118.05
Foyle	C	65,311	Castle	Alan M	AP	0.00	782.00	0.00
			Hay	William	DUP	0.00	4,957.63	0.00
			Courtney	Annie	IND	100.00	6,507.00	0.00
			McBrearty	Danny	IND	0.00	545.00	0.00
			Bradley	Mary	SDLP	0.00	4,910.25	0.00
			Diver	Gerard M	SDLP	0.00	4,751.13	0.00
			Durkan	John Mark	SDLP	0.00	5,239.71	0.00
			Ramsey	Pat	SDLP	0.00	4,957.72	0.00
			McCann	Eamonn	SEA	0.00	3,065.25	0.00
			McCartney	Raymond	SF	0.00	2,763.22	0.00
			McLaughlin	Mitchel	SF	0.00	2,763.22	0.00
			Nelis	Mary	SF	0.00	2,763.22	0.00
			Hamilton	Mary Scott	UUP	0.00	2,910.76	0.00
Lagan Valley	C	60,111	Close	Seamus A	AP	0.00	3,438.75	0.00
			Johnston	Joanne C	CON	0.00	1,775.06	0.00
			Hunter	Andrew R F	EDUP	0.00	0.00	0.00
			Poots	Edwin C	DUP	0.00	0.00	0.00
			Davis	Ivan	IND	0.00	8,416.88	0.00
			Park	Andrew	PUP	0.00	2,374.83	0.00
			Lewsley	Patricia	SDLP	0.00	1,679.55	0.00
			Butler	Paul A	SF	0.00	5,476.36	0.00
			Beare	Norah J	UUP	0.00	3,344.48	0.00
			Bell	Billy	UUP	0.00	3,675.77	0.00
			Donaldson	Jeffery M	UUP	0.00	4,829.29	0.00
			Kirkpatrick	Jim	UUP	0.00	3,441.43	0.00

Expenditure incurred (£) – subject to legal maximum

Petty expenditure	Unpaid claims	Disputed claims	Incurred prior to becoming a candidate	Total reported expenses	Incurred prior to becoming a candidate	Total reported expenses	Joint candidate	Statutory limit
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,437.59	2	7,104.75
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.42	0.00	5,216.03	3	6,315.34
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.42	0.00	5,216.03	3	6,315.34
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.42	0.00	5,390.03	3	6,315.34
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	3,751.92	3	6,315.34
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	3,751.92	3	6,315.34
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	3,751.94	3	6,315.34
50.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,987.06		9,472.64
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	782.00		9,532.28
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,957.63		9,532.28
0.00	0.00	0.00	*6507.00	0.00	0.00	6,507.00		9,532.28
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	545.00		9,532.28
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	5,060.25	4	6,354.85
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	4,901.13	4	6,354.85
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	5,389.71	4	6,354.85
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	650.00	0.00	5,607.72	4	6,354.85
80.10	970.44	0.00	0.00	216.66	0.00	4,332.45		9,532.28
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	848.28	0.00	3,611.50	3	6,354.85
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	848.28	0.00	3,611.50	3	6,354.85
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	848.28	0.00	3,611.50	3	6,354.85
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,910.76		9,532.28
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,438.75		9,209.88
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,775.06		9,209.88
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,720.42	0.00	3,720.42	2	7,270.44
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,720.42	0.00	3,720.42	2	7,270.44
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,416.88		9,209.88
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	2,474.83		9,209.88
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,256.28	0.00	3,935.83		9,209.88
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,856.25	0.00	8,332.61		9,209.88
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,344.48	4	6,462.61
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	152.75	0.00	3,828.52	4	6,462.61
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,829.29	4	6,462.61
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,441.43	4	6,462.61

Table 14: Candidate election expenses cont.

Constituency	Type	Elec- torate	Candidate		Party	Personal expenses (£)	Payments made by agent	Payments made by candidate
			Surname	Forname				
			McCarthy	Frances	WP	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mid Ulster	C	67,918	Holmes	James D R	AP	0.00	777.00	0.00
			McCrea	Robert T W	DUP	0.00	2,393.78	0.00
			Millar	Alan	DUP	0.00	2,393.77	0.00
			Haughey	Denis	SDLP	0.00	4,743.24	0.00
			McGlone	Patsy	SDLP	0.00	4,743.24	0.00
			Dougan	Geraldine	SF	0.00	2,778.44	0.00
			Groogan	Cora	SF	0.00	2,778.44	0.00
			McGuinness	Martin	SF	0.00	2,778.44	0.00
			Molloy	Francis J	SF	0.00	2,778.44	0.00
			Armstrong	Billy	UUP	0.00	3,901.20	0.00
			Wilson	Trevor J	UUP	0.00	3,018.84	0.00
			Donnelly	Frances	WP	0.00	1,481.25	0.00
Newry and Armagh	C	68,738	Whitcroft	Peter	AP	0.00	702.00	0.00
			Berry	Paul Leslie	DUP	0.00	2,280.20	0.00
			Donnelly	Freda	DUP	0.00	2,280.20	0.00
			Frazer	William	IND	0.00	2,989.57	0.00
			Bradley	Dominic	SDLP	0.00	4,321.13	0.00
			Fee	John F	SDLP	0.00	3,538.74	0.00
			Lennon	Jim	SDLP	0.00	4,579.95	0.00
			Hyland	Davy	SF	0.00	6,370.55	0.00
			Murphy	Conor	SF	0.00	5,350.44	0.00
			O'Rawe	Pat	SF	0.00	5,335.45	0.00
			Kennedy	Danny	UUP	0.00	5,370.25	0.00
North Antrim	C	70,493	Dunlop	Jayne	AP	0.00	1,870.75	0.00
			Paisley	Ian Jr	DUP	33.26	2,444.94	13.47
			Paisley	Ian R K	DUP	33.26	2,444.94	13.47
			Storey	Mervyn	DUP	33.26	2,444.94	13.47
			Kane	Gardiner	IND	0.00	3,140.64	0.00
			McCaughey	William B	PUP	0.00	2,045.87	0.00
			Farren	Sean	SDLP	0.00	4,367.63	0.00
			O'Loan	Declan	SDLP	0.00	4,693.87	0.00
			McGuigan	Philip	SF	0.00	7,476.04	0.00

Expenditure incurred (£) – subject to legal maximum

Petty expenditure	Unpaid claims	Disputed claims	Incurred prior to becoming a candidate	Total reported expenses	Incurred prior to becoming a candidate	Total reported expenses	Joint candidate	Statutory limit
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,481.25	0.00	1,481.25		9,209.88
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	777.00		9,693.92
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,393.78	2	6,907.42
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,393.77	2	6,907.42
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,743.24	2	6,907.42
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,743.24	2	6,907.42
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	133.20	0.00	2,911.64	4	6,139.93
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	133.20	0.00	2,911.64	4	6,139.93
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	133.20	0.00	2,911.64	4	6,139.93
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	133.20	0.00	2,911.64	4	6,139.93
0.00	0.00	0.00	35.00	37.99	0.00	3,974.19	2	6,907.42
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,018.84	2	6,907.42
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,481.25		9,693.92
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	702.00		9,744.76
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,280.20	2	7,308.57
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,280.20	2	7,308.57
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	3,089.57		9,744.76
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,321.13	3	6,496.51
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,538.74	3	6,496.51
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,579.95	3	6,496.51
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	6,390.55	3	6,496.51
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	5,370.44	3	6,496.51
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	5,355.45	3	6,496.51
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,370.25		9,744.76
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,870.75		9,853.57
285.77	0.00	0.00	*13.47	603.32	*33.26	3,347.50	3	6,569.05
285.77	0.00	0.00	*13.47	603.32	*33.26	3,347.50	3	6,569.05
285.77	0.00	0.00	*13.47	603.32	*33.26	3,347.50	3	6,569.05
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,140.64		9,853.57
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	*2045.87	0.00	2,045.87		9,853.57
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,367.63	2	7,390.18
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,693.87	2	7,390.18
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	195.00	0.00	7,671.04		9,853.57

Table 14: Candidate election expenses cont.

Constituency	Type	Elec- torate	Candidate		Party	Personal expenses (£)	Payments made by agent	Payments made by candidate
			Surname	Forname				
			Small	Nathaniel J	UKUP	115.00	2,867.89	0.00
			Coulter	Robert J	UUP	250.00	2,829.69	0.00
			Currie	James K F	UUP	295.00	2,984.19	0.00
North Down	C	57,423	Farry	Stephen	AP	0.00	3,184.68	0.00
			Bell	Eileen	AP	0.00	3,184.69	0.00
			Robertson	Julian	CON	0.00	2,770.10	0.00
			Easton	Alex	DUP	20.00	3,272.41	0.00
			Weir	Peter	DUP	27.00	3,089.81	0.00
			Barry	John	GP	0.00	0.00	2,215.14
			Chambers	Alan	IND	0.00	1,929.07	0.00
			Field	Alan	IND	0.00	3,968.66	0.00
			Carter	Chris	IND	0.00	3,854.15	0.00
			Wilson	Brian	IND	0.00	1,958.38	0.00
			Rose	David	PUP	0.00	1,926.17	0.00
			Logan	William	SDLP	0.00	19.80	0.00
			George	Maria	SF	0.00	0.00	0.00
			McCartney	Robert	UKUP	145.00	3,621.15	*3621.15
			Sheridan	Thomas	UKUP	92.00	3,621.15	*3621.15
			Cree	Robin	UUP	0.00	5,158.85	0.00
			McFarland	Alan	UUP	82.50	5,158.85	0.00
			Peacocke	Diane	UUP	108.95	5,158.92	0.00
			Morrice	Jane	WC	0.00	4,105.00	0.00
South Antrim	C	63,643	Ford	David	AP	0.00	4,760.50	0.00
			Docherty	Jason	CON	0.00	1,494.15	0.00
			Clyde	Samuel	DUP	0.00	0.00	0.00
			Girvan	William	DUP	0.00	0.00	0.00
			Smyth	John	DUP	0.00	0.00	0.00
			Boyd	Norman	NIU	0.00	2,590.00	0.00
			Wilkinson	Kenneth	PUP	0.00	1,871.78	0.00
			Burns	Thomas	SDLP	0.00	5,613.57	0.00
			McClelland	Donovan	SDLP	18.00	2,608.96	0.00
			Meehan	Martin	SF	0.00	3,858.56	0.00
			Burnside	David	UUP	0.00	2,635.31	0.00

Expenditure incurred (£) – subject to legal maximum

Petty expenditure	Unpaid claims	Disputed claims	Incurred prior to becoming a candidate	Total reported expenses	Incurred prior to becoming a candidate	Total reported expenses	Joint candidate	Statutory limit
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,867.89		9,853.57
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,829.69	2	7,390.18
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,984.19	2	7,390.18
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,184.68	2	6,782.37
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,184.68	2	6,782.37
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,770.10		9,043.23
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,272.41	2	6,782.37
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,089.81	2	6,782.37
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,215.14		9,043.23
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,929.07		9,043.23
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,968.66		9,043.23
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,854.15		9,043.23
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,958.38		9,043.23
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,926.17		9,043.16
0.00	0.00	0.00	1,873.75	3,557.76	14.20	5,465.51		9,043.23
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	920.13	0.00	920.13		9,043.23
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,621.15	2	6,782.37
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,621.15	2	6,782.37
6.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,165.51	3	6,028.77
6.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,165.51	3	6,028.77
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,158.92	3	6,028.77
0.00	0.00	0.00	1,820.00	0.00	0.00	5,925.00		9,043.23
34.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,794.50		9,428.87
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,494.15		9,428.87
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,160.60	0.00	3,160.60	3	6,289.06
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,160.60	0.00	3,160.60	3	6,289.06
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,160.60	0.00	3,160.60	3	6,289.06
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,590.00		9,428.87
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,871.78		9,428.87
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,045.05	0.00	7,658.62		9,428.87
0.00	0.00	0.00	105.75	636.33	14.00	3,365.04		9,428.87
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,366.73	0.00	6,225.29		9,428.87
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,635.31	3	6,289.06

Table 14: Candidate election expenses cont.

Constituency	Type	Elec- torate	Candidate		Party	Personal expenses (£)	Payments made by agent	Payments made by candidate
			Surname	Forname				
			Cochrane-Watson	Adrian	UUP	0.00	2,635.31	0.00
			Wilson	Jim	UUP	0.00	2,635.31	0.00
			Cosgrove	Joan	WC	10.00	1,491.05	0.00
South Down	C	70,153	Powell	Neil	AP	0.00	772.00	0.00
			Wells	James	DUP	192.00	4,764.60	0.00
			Blaney	Raymond	GP	0.00	2,919.54	0.00
			Curran	Malachi	IND	*306.00	0.00	0.00
			Bradley	P.J.	SDLP	0.00	5,987.56	0.00
			Fitzpatrick	Marian	SDLP	0.00	5,987.56	0.00
			O'Neill	Eamonn	SDLP	0.00	5,987.56	0.00
			Ritchie	Margaret	SDLP	0.00	5,987.56	0.00
			Clarke	William	SF	0.00	3,967.77	0.00
			McConvey	Eamonn	SF	0.00	3,892.77	0.00
			Ruane	Caitriona	SF	0.00	4,102.77	0.00
			Wharton	Nelson	UKUP	0.00	4,027.96	0.00
			Donaldson	Jim	UUP	0.00	5,122.48	0.00
			Nesbitt	Dermot	UUP	0.00	7,213.67	0.00
			Miller	Trudy	WC	0.00	2,470.41	0.00
			O'Hagan	Desmond	WP	0.00	0.00	0.00
Strangford	C	66,314	McCarthy	Kieran	AP	0.00	4,659.59	0.00
			Shannon	Jim	DUP	0.00	5,614.77	0.00
			Ennis	George	DUP	0.00	5,480.82	0.00
			Robinson	Iris	DUP	0.00	5,480.82	0.00
			Orr	Philip	GP	0.00	658.62	0.00
			McCarthy	Danny	IND	60.00	1,479.62	0.00
			Wilson	Cedric	NIU	0.00	3,905.56	0.00
			Neill	Colin	PUP	0.00	2,781.14	0.00
			Boyle	Joseph	SDLP	0.00	0.00	0.00
			Kennedy	Dermot	SF	0.00	3,520.68	0.00
			Kilclooney	John	UUP	0.00	9,432.12	0.00
			McNarry	David	UUP	60.00	7,267.46	0.00
			Little	Robert	UUP	57.64	4,017.52	0.00
Upper Bann	C	68,816	McQuaid	Francis	AP	0.00	1,407.09	0.00

Expenditure incurred (£) – subject to legal maximum

Petty expenditure	Unpaid claims	Disputed claims	Incurred prior to becoming a candidate	Total reported expenses	Incurred prior to becoming a candidate	Total reported expenses	Joint candidate	Statutory limit
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,635.31	3	6,289.06
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,635.31	3	6,289.06
0.00	*10.00	0.00	447.40	0.00	0.00	1,938.45		9,428.87
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	772.00		9,832.49
0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	4,864.60		9,832.49
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,919.54		9,832.49
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	815.92	0.00	815.92		9,832.49
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,987.56	4	6,555.03
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,987.56	4	6,555.03
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,987.56	4	6,555.03
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,987.56	4	6,555.03
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	305.44	0.00	4,273.21	3	6,555.03
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	305.44	0.00	4,198.21	3	6,555.03
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	305.44	0.00	4,408.21	3	6,555.03
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,027.96		9,832.49
0.00	49.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,171.85	2	7,374.37
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.00	0.00	7,293.67	2	7,374.37
0.00	0.00	0.00	861.96	0.00	0.00	3,332.37		9,832.49
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,481.25	0.00	1,481.25		9,832.49
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,659.59		9,594.22
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	283.33	0.00	5,898.10	3	6,396.15
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	283.33	0.00	5,764.15	3	6,396.15
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	283.33	0.00	5,764.15	3	6,396.15
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	658.62		9,594.22
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,479.62		9,594.22
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,905.56		9,594.22
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,781.14		9,594.22
3,764.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,148.61	0.00	8,913.28		9,594.22
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,604.36	0.00	5,125.05		9,594.22
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,432.12		9,594.22
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,267.46		9,594.22
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	6,017.52		9,594.22
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,407.09		9,749.59

Table 14: Candidate election expenses cont.

Constituency	Type	Elec- torate	Candidate		Party	Personal expenses (£)	Payments made by agent	Payments made by candidate
			Surname	Forname				
			Moutray	Stephen	DUP	0.00	3,309.42	0.00
			Simpson	David	DUP	0.00	3,309.42	0.00
			Watson	Denis	DUP	0.00	3,309.42	0.00
			Anderson	Sidney	IND	0.00	1,936.49	0.00
			Jones	David	IND	0.00	1,936.48	0.00
			Corr	Kieran	SDLP	180.00	4,193.42	0.00
			Kelly	Dolores	SDLP	150.00	3,913.96	0.00
			O'Dowd	John	SF	0.00	785.64	0.00
			O'Hagan	Dara	SF	0.00	785.64	0.00
			Trimble	David	UUP	400.00	5,535.31	0.00
			Savage	George	UUP	400.00	5,535.31	0.00
			Gardiner	Samuel	UUP	400.00	5,535.31	0.00
			French	Thomas	WP	0.00	*1481.25	0.00
West Tyrone	C	57,796	Alexander	Steven J	AP	0.00	712.00	0.00
			Buchanan	Thomas E	DUP	0.00	2,937.19	0.00
			Reaney	Derek W C	DUP	0.00	2,937.19	0.00
			Deeny	Charles K	IND	0.00	0.00	0.00
			Reid	Samuel R	PUP	*236.50	1,995.88	0.00
			Byrne	Mark J	SDLP	425.00	5,998.16	0.00
			McMenamin	Eugene A	SDLP	0.00	5,961.24	0.00
			Doherty	Pat	SF	0.00	5,462.54	0.00
			McElduff	Barry	SF	0.00	5,462.54	0.00
			McMahon	Brian	SF	0.00	5,462.54	0.00
			Hussey	Derek R	UUP	0.00	2,791.95	0.00
			Wilson	Robert D	UUP	0.00	2,791.95	0.00

Expenditure incurred (£) – subject to legal maximum

Petty expenditure	Unpaid claims	Disputed claims	Incurred prior to becoming a candidate	Total reported expenses	Incurred prior to becoming a candidate	Total reported expenses	Joint candidate	Statutory limit
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	3,509.42	3	6,499.73
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	3,509.42	3	6,499.73
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	3,509.42	3	6,499.73
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	2,186.49	2	7,312.19
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	2,186.48	2	7,312.19
50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	87.50	0.00	4,330.92	2	7,312.19
50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	87.50	0.00	4,051.46	2	7,312.19
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,066.50	0.00	1,852.14	2	7,312.19
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,066.50	0.00	1,852.14	2	7,312.19
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	861.79	0.00	6,397.10	3	6,499.73
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	861.79	0.00	6,397.10	3	6,499.73
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	861.79	0.00	6,397.10	3	6,499.73
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,481.25	0.00	1,481.25		9,749.59
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	712.00		9,066.35
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.45	0.00	2,950.64	2	6,799.76
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.46	0.00	2,950.65	2	6,799.76
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,983.25	0.00	6,983.25		9,066.35
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,995.88		9,066.35
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	269.15	0.00	6,267.31	2	6,799.76
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	90.95	0.00	6,052.19	2	6,799.76
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,462.54	3	6,044.23
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,462.54	3	6,044.23
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,462.54	3	6,044.23
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,791.95	2	6,799.76
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,791.95	2	6,799.76

Total expenditure: £896,930.13

The Electoral Commission

We are an independent body that was set up by the UK Parliament. We aim to gain public confidence and encourage people to take part in the democratic process within the UK by modernising the electoral process, promoting public awareness of electoral matters, and regulating political parties.

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