

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION (LIMIT ON PUBLIC AWARENESS
EXPENDITURE) ORDER 2014**

2014 No. 510

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Cabinet Office and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Purpose of the instrument

- 2.1 The instrument raises the amount the Electoral Commission can spend on public awareness activities from £7,500,000 to £9,500,000 for the 2014/15 financial year. This increase is to support public awareness activity concerning the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration. The sum the Electoral Commission can spend on public awareness activities will revert to £7,500,000 from the 2015/16 financial year.

3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

- 3.1 None.

4. Legislative Context

- 4.1 This instrument revokes the Electoral Commission (Limit on Public Awareness Expenditure) Order 2002 (S.I. 2002/05). Under section 13(1) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the Electoral Commission are required to promote public awareness of the matters specified in that provision. By this Order the power in section 13(6) of that Act is exercised in order to set a limit of £9,500,000 on total expenditure for the 2014/15 financial year and a limit of £7,500,000 in any subsequent year from the 2015/16 financial year.

5. Territorial Extent and Application

- 5.1 This instrument extends to all of the United Kingdom and to Gibraltar (given that the Electoral Commission's remit extends to European Parliamentary elections).

6. European Convention on Human Rights

- 6.1 As this Order is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

7. Policy background

- 7.1 The Government is bring forward Individual Electoral Registration which will require each eligible individual to register to vote, rather than registration being done by household. Individual Electoral Registration will be rolled out from 2014/15 and will be supported by public awareness campaigns run by the Government and the Electoral

Commission. The Electoral Commission have requested additional resources for the 2014/15 financial year in order to maintain their existing public awareness activities around electoral events while also undertaking a campaign to promote Individual Electoral Registration.

8. Consultation outcome

8.1 The EC have been consulted on this instrument and are content that it achieves their policy objectives.

9. Guidance

9.1 The EC provide advice on how to register to vote via its website, as well as undertaking public awareness campaigns via the media.

10. Impact

10.1 A full regulatory impact assessment has not been prepared for this instrument because no, or no significant impact on the private or voluntary sector is foreseen.

11. Regulating small business

11.1 The legislation does not apply to small business.

12. Monitoring & review

12.1 These are minor amendments and there are no plans to undertake a formal review of their impact.

13. Contact

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