



BANK OF ENGLAND

Political Activities

Policy

This policy sets out the approach Bank staff must follow when standing for elected political office or undertake certain political activities.

This policy is part of Our Code, which Bank staff are required to attest to annually.

Why do we need this policy?

This policy reflects that the Bank is apolitical, and its requirements are designed to protect our reputation for impartiality, while recognising that staff may wish to engage in political activity.

Who does this policy apply to?

This policy applies to all Bank staff. This includes consultants, contractors and agency staff.

What you must know or do

What is 'political activity'?

Political activity here refers to active engagement in party political matters such as standing in local or national elections, being involved in campaigning (such as door to door canvassing), raising money for a political party, or being on a local party management committee.

It does not cover simply being a member of a political party, or providing administrative support to it, such as delivering leaflets.

The application of this policy will be in accordance with the relevant data protection legislation.

For all colleagues who engage in political activity



1. You do not need to notify the Bank of membership of a political party



2. You must notify the Secretary via the Our Code Compliance system if your political activity is likely to include involvement in party organisation, fundraising or campaigning (e.g. door to door canvassing).



3. You must avoid any suggestion that the Bank supports or endorses your political activity. This means:

- 3.1 you must make it clear that your involvement is solely in a personal capacity;
- 3.2 you must not publicise that you work for the Bank in connection with it;
- 3.3 you must not engage in political activity while on duty, or using Bank premises, systems, or resources; and
- 3.4 you must comply with the Bank's Media Handling Policy when engaging in political activities, and raise any questions about media contact or public debate with the Press Office.

For all colleagues who wish to stand in local or national elections



4. If you wish to stand for local or national elected office, you must seek consent in advance from the Secretary via the Our Code Compliance system giving at least three months' notice.

- 4.1 In exceptional circumstances the Secretary may allow for a shorter notice period.
- 4.2 You should also make your Head of Division aware of your request.



5. The Secretary may consult local management and Governors as necessary, to consider any sensitivities arising from your work, and any risk to the Bank's reputation for impartiality.

- 5.1 This will be a particular concern if you work in a policy area of the Bank and are seeking adoption as a prospective candidate for a Parliamentary constituency or as a candidate for another national assembly.



6. If you are selected as a party candidate for membership of the House of Commons, the Scottish Parliament or the Welsh, Northern Irish or London Assemblies, or for any other remunerated elected office, you will be required to take unpaid leave from the point of adoption as a prospective candidate until the election.

- 6.1 If you are elected, you must resign immediately.



7. If you are elected as a member of a local authority or similar body, you may be allowed to remain employed by the Bank.

- 7.1 If you intend to stand again in subsequent local elections, you should re-confirm your intention to stand via the Our Code Compliance system.

For all line managers and HoDs (and above)



8. You must ensure that any member of your team who is or plans to be politically active understands the requirements of this policy, and follows the notification and approval process in a timely manner.



9. HoDs (and above) are required to approve political activity requests promptly via the Our Code Compliance system once screened by Secretary's Department.

What support is available to help you comply with this policy?

The following documents support this policy:

- Our Code; and
- Staff Handbook (see Section C2).

What is the impact of non-compliance?

If you realise you have breached – or suspect that you might have breached – a requirement in this policy please do not delay in telling your line manager. This allows issues to be reported and redressed. Credit is given for taking prompt responsibility for mistakes. Failing to discharge your responsibilities could lead to disciplinary or other action.

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