

Engaging in Political Activity Policy

February 2023



What we mean by 'political activity'

The Charity Commission uses the term 'political activity' to describe activities or campaigning to change or influence policies or decisions taken by:

- national, devolved, local or overseas government
- public bodies including international organisations such as the UN and World Bank, and national or local organisations such as regulators or NHS Trusts

Charities may work with different people to take part in political activity, such as:

- politicians, political candidates or public servants
- the public to obtain support or opposition for a change

The rules on political activity

Charities can take part in political activity that supports their purpose and is in their best interests.

There may be situations where carrying out political activity is the best way for trustees to support their charity's purpose. However, political activity must not become the reason for the charity's existence.

Engaging in political activity

Any decision to engage in political activities must support the delivery of our charity's purpose:

- act within our charity's governing document
- act honestly and only in our charity's interests
- be sufficiently informed, taking any advice we need
- take account only of the relevant factors
- manage any conflicts of interest
- make a decision that is within a range of decisions that a reasonable body of trustees could make

Date	Changes made	Review date