

## Code of Conduct

The Party considers that the actions and behaviour of approved candidates will be subject to greater scrutiny than that of ordinary members of the public or of the Party.

Approved candidates should be aware that their actions in both their public and private life might have an adverse impact not only on their own reputation but also on that of Party. Behaviour which is unlawful, dishonest, deceitful, violent or threatening in their public or private life may constitute bringing the Party into disrepute, which is grounds for permanent removal from the list of approved candidates under section 11.4 of the Federal Constitution.

In order to qualify for inclusion on the list of approved candidates, members must sign up to the following code of conduct. Failing to follow this code of conduct will constitute prima facie grounds for removal from the list of approved candidates. In addition, if elected, failing to follow this code of conduct may result in the Whip being withdrawn.

1. You must treat others with respect, and must not bully, harass or intimidate any Party member, member of Party staff, member of Parliamentary staff, Party volunteer or member of the public.
2. You must act in such a way as to promote the values of the Liberal Democrats and must not act in a way that is contrary to the interests or values of the Party.
3. You must complete any declarations of private interest that the Party requires, and, if elected, must complete the Official Register of Interests or equivalent as supplied to Members and any declaration required by the Electoral Commission.
4. You must at all times comply with the current versions of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and the Representation of the People Act 1983 and any other relevant legislation and must provide information regarding expenses or donations as required by the Party.
5. You must at all times comply with the Party's data protection and data security policies when dealing with any data to which you may be given access by the Party.
6. You must abide by the Party's internal selection and election rules, and by any other Code of Conduct that has been signed up to by the Party.
7. You must not bring, or risk bringing, the Party into disrepute.

## Eligibility Criteria

Certain categories of people are not legally eligible to stand for Parliament. It is the responsibility of Parliamentary Candidates to ensure that they are legally eligible to stand for election to the House of Commons, Scottish Parliament or European Parliament. Details of the relevant Acts of Parliament can be found via the following link to the [Office of Public Sector Information website](#).

The following is a non-exhaustive list of the categories of people who are identified as ineligible to stand for Parliament in statute or common law. In some cases although a person may be legally ineligible to stand he or she may be eligible to become an approved candidate (e.g. if he or she is currently under 18 but is likely to turn 18 before nominations close for the next General Election). Therefore, if any of the following apply or may apply to you, **you must contact the Candidates' Office with full details**. Failure to do so will constitute prima facie grounds for removal from the list of Approved Candidates.

### **People who are not eligible to stand for Parliament** (source: The Agent's Manual 2007 ed.)

- **Aliens\*** - Westminster Parliamentary candidates must be citizens of the UK, the Republic of Ireland or the Commonwealth. European and Scottish Parliamentary candidates must be citizens of the EU resident in the UK or an eligible Commonwealth citizen<sup>†</sup>.
- **Infants\*** - people under the age of 18.
- **Lunatics\*** - if their mental illness means they are not in possession of their mental faculties. Although this area has yet to be tested it is likely that a person who lacks capacity under the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 would fall within this restriction.
- **Peers of the Realm** - members of the current House of Lords (with the exception of Irish Peers). Ex-members of the House of Lords are entitled to stand for the House of Commons. This provision applies only to the UK parliament.
- **Bankrupts\*** - if they are currently un-discharged bankrupts, or if they were discharged less than five years ago. This includes persons whose estate has been sequestrated by a court in Scotland and have not been discharged; are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order by a court in England or Wales; or have been adjudged bankrupt by a court in Northern Ireland
- **Convicts\*** - currently serving a prison sentence of at least one year
- **Office Holders** - civil servants, members of the armed forces, police, those holding certain judicial offices, and members of named tribunals, commissions and bodies.
- **Disqualified** - by reason of having been convicted of corrupt practices and banned from standing under Part III of the Representation of the People Act 183 (which relates to donations and other offences)

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\* Please note that these are the legal terms as defined in standard election law reference works, which is why they may seem rather outdated!

<sup>†</sup> An eligible Commonwealth citizen is a person who either: does not need leave to remain in the United Kingdom, or has indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom

## Other legal issues

Many standard election law reference works contain information suggesting that people who are “Deaf and Dumb” cannot stand for Parliament. This is an archaic term that is now generally considered offensive and is very difficult to define in modern terms. In addition, the relevant area of common law is a complex one that may be in conflict with subsequent Disability and Human Rights legislation. If you are concerned that this may affect you, please contact the Candidates’ Office for further advice. **This will not affect your eligibility to become an approved candidate.**

## Personal Disclosure

In addition to signing the code of conduct, and confirming that they are legally eligible to stand for election the Party has identified the following specific circumstances which applicants for approval are required to disclose on application. If any of the following apply or may apply to you, or come to apply to you at some future time, **you must contact the Candidates’ Office with full details.** This will not necessarily affect your application for approval, but failure to disclose any relevant information will constitute prima facie grounds for removal from the list of Approved Candidates.

1. You have at any time been convicted of any offence by any court, whether civil or military, in the UK or elsewhere.
2. You have at any time, in the UK or elsewhere, been censured, disciplined or publicly criticised by any professional body to which you belong or belonged, or been dismissed on disciplinary grounds from any office or employment, or been refused entry to any profession or occupation.
3. You have at any time entered into an Individual Voluntary Arrangement or Protected Trust Deed, made a composition with your creditors, been adjudged bankrupt by a court in the UK or elsewhere or been sequestered.
4. You have or have ever had, in respect of your tax affairs or the tax affairs (including Business Rates) for any business of which you were a partners or controlling shareholder, any proceedings brought against you or that business for late or non-completion of tax returns or the late or non-payment of taxes.
5. You have or have ever had any County Court judgements or a Scottish Decree from a Court in respect of a debt against you.
6. You have, in connection with the formation or management of any body corporate, been adjudged by a court in the UK or elsewhere, civilly or criminally liable for any fraud, misfeasance or other misconduct towards such a body, or any members thereof, or to persons with whom the body corporate had dealings.
7. Any body corporate with which you were associated as a director or principal shareholder, in the UK or elsewhere, has been compulsorily wound up or made any

compromise or arrangement with its creditors who did not receive or have not yet received full settlement of their claims, either whilst you were associated with it or within one year after you ceased to be associated with it.

8. There are any proceedings, whether criminal or civil, now pending or threatened against you, or any circumstances now subsist, which could give rise to any such proceedings following an affirmative answer to any of 1 to 6 above.
9. There are any aspects of your private or public life that might have a detrimental effect on your candidacy or your career if elected, or have the potential to bring you or the Party into disrepute.
10. If your circumstances in relation to 1 - 9 above change at any time in the future you must inform the Candidates Office immediately.

## Declaration

The Liberal Democrats reserve the right at any time to check on any experience, achievements, qualifications and skills claimed by you on your application form and on any information provided by you in support of your application. By signing this form you will be providing us with your agreement for us to proceed with this course of action.

I **declare** that to the best of my knowledge and belief, all particulars I have given as part of my application for approval as a Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate are complete and true.

I **declare** that I will sign and keep up to date all personal and financial declarations as required.

I **declare** that I will abide by the Code of Conduct for Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidates.

I **declare** that I have read the Eligibility Criteria and Personal Disclosure information, and that I have notified the Candidates' Office of any relevant information as required.

I **declare** that I will in the future notify the Candidates' Office of any change in my circumstances in relation to the Eligibility Criteria and Personal Disclosure information.

I **understand** that any false declaration or misleading statement or any significant omission in the information I provide may constitute prima facie grounds for my removal from the list of approved candidates and, if elected to Parliament, may result in the Whip being withdrawn.

I **agree** for any personal data I provide to the Candidates' Office be held in accordance with the Liberal Democrat privacy policy, a copy of which is available on the [Liberal Democrat website](http://www.libdems.org.uk).

Name: ..... Signed: .....

In the presence of: ..... Signed: .....  
(name) .....

Address: ..... Date: .....

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Occupation: .....