



Politically Restricted Posts

What is a politically restricted post?

Under the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as amended)¹, all employees of the Police & Crime Commissioner, except for the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, are subject to restrictions on the political activities they are able to undertake e.g. political membership of a local authority. In addition, the Local Government Officers (Political Restrictions) Regulations 1990 specify certain other political activities which the holder of a politically restricted post cannot undertake such as canvassing.

What activities are restricted?

Where a post is politically restricted the holder shall not:

- Stand as a member of:
 - a) The House of Commons;
 - b) The European Parliament; or
 - c) A local authority.²
- Act as an election agent or sub-agent for a candidate for Parliament, European Parliament or a local authority.
- Be an officer of a political party or of any branch of such a party or a member of any committee or sub-committee of such a party or branch if his/her duties as such an officer or member would be likely to require him/her:
 - a) to participate in the general management of the party or the branch; or
 - b) to act on behalf of the party or branch in dealings with persons other than members of the party or members of another political party associated with the party.
- Canvass on behalf of a political party or on behalf of a person who is, or proposes to be, a candidate for election to Parliament, European Parliament or a local authority.

Exemptions

Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, post holders cannot apply for an exemption.

¹ S.1 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as amended by paragraph 200 of schedule 16 to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility (PRSR) Act 2011, with transitional provision in paragraph 20 of schedule 15 of the PRSR Act 2011 – which exempts existing staff from such political restrictions).

² Local Authority (defined in section 21 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989) does not include a Parish Council.

If you have any questions or would like any further information please speak to the Chief Executive.