

Candidate policy

1. Why we have a candidate policy

Our election candidates are public representatives of the party, and their actions and behaviour have a direct effect on how our members, potential supporters, and members of the public view us. We want our candidates to represent us in a positive manner, and we feel that our candidates should be aware of what we expect of them. We therefore ask all our candidates to agree to our main terms and conditions prior to standing for the party in elections.

2. Other material you should read

All candidates are expected to have read the Party Constitution, which is publicly available on our website and is provided to all candidates. We also draw your attention to the party's standing orders and policies, which are available on request.

Appendix 1: Statement of Main Terms and Conditions for Representing the National Health Action Party as a Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the General Election (or By-Election) in 20__.

Name:_____

1. Membership and Terms

All prospective candidates will maintain full membership of the Party during the full term of the election campaign and their candidacy.

Prospective candidates will not hold membership of any other party whilst representing the National Health Action Party.

2. Party Constitution

Please read the Party Constitution which is enclosed with this statement. As a National Health Action Party representative your signature on this document is acknowledgement that you have read and agree to abide by the constitution, subject to amendment.

3. Eligibility

The Electoral Commission states that people wishing to stand as MPs must be over 18 years of age, be a British citizen or citizen of a Commonwealth country or the Republic of Ireland.

Candidates must be nominated by ten parliamentary electors of the constituency they wish to stand in. It is your responsibility as prospective candidates to ensure that your ten signatures are from electors who are actually on the electoral register in the current year, reside within your constituency boundaries, and are acquired at the proper time.

Candidates will ensure they use the authorised logo and description of the party at all times on electoral registration forms. Failure to conform to these regulations may mean your disqualification by the Electoral Commission.

The following are disqualified from standing as MPs: members of the police forces; members of the armed forces; civil servants and judges; people who are subject to a bankruptcy restrictions order in England or Wales or a debt relief restrictions order; people who have been adjudged bankrupt in Northern Ireland; people who have had their estate sequestered in Scotland.

Candidates will ensure they conform to all Electoral Commission requirements.

4. Conduct

There is a Code of Conduct for MPs which covers 7 general principles of conduct. These are: selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty and leadership. They are high principles which we hope our representatives would strive to maintain at all times in public life whilst representing the party both during the election campaign and after.

In the same spirit as the House of Commons rules, these principles do not seek to regulate a candidate's private and personal life, unless such conduct should bring, or threaten to bring, the National Health Action party into disrepute. We would request, however, that candidates disclose, under strict confidentiality, anything which they feel may be used against them by other parties or the media during the course of election campaigning. A statement can then be prepared in advance to protect both you and the Party.

In the furtherance of this aim we request that you apply to Disclosure Scotland (this covers all the UK) for a Basic Disclosure Certificate. This process takes approximately 14 days. The website is www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/basicdisclosureonline/

5. Campaign Expenses & Fundraising

Candidates will appoint an election agent (you may act as your own, if you wish). There are legal responsibilities for proper management of election campaigns. These have particular regard to financial management. You, or your agent, will be responsible for reporting both donations (in cash or kind) and expenses to the Party Treasurer.

The Electoral Commission's guidance for candidates is available at www.electoralcommission.org.uk.

As agreed at the executive committee of 19th July 2014, the Party will pay the deposit of £500 for each candidate from central party funds on submission of their nominations forms.

The Party will further commit from central party funds to an initial offer of supplying the candidates with 5,000 leaflets, designed and printed. These may be general leaflets for raising the profile of the party, or candidate specific leaflets, as required. The Party may not make firm commitments which exceed its existing funds and income, but in response to successful fundraising may extend the initial offer.

In addition to the commitments listed above the Party will place its resources at the disposal of the candidates in order to enhance the press coverage, membership support and local fund raising efforts of each constituency.

There will be a formal review of candidates' campaigns before the run up to the election. This will be an opportunity for both sides to assess progress, including, but not limited to, the sufficient development of local support and the candidates' local media profiles in order to sustain an effective campaign.

6. Policy & Press

Candidates will discuss both NHA Party policy and any local issues with a member of the executive and liaise with the Party's Press Officer over the best way to communicate these.

The Party's Press officer must be kept informed of events, media appearances and articles generated by or featuring candidates.

Published campaign leaflets and other promotional material must be agreed in advance with the Press officer who will retain brand control over the Party's public image.

I agree to the above terms and conditions in conjunction with the constitution of the Party and further declare that I have no criminal conviction or association which is liable to bring the party into disrepute.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Name: _____ **Constituency:** _____

(Copy to be retained by candidate)

Appendix 2: Statement of Main Terms and Conditions for Representing the National Health Action Party as a Prospective Candidate for the Local Elections in 20__.

Name: _____

1. Membership and Terms

All prospective candidates will maintain full membership of the Party during the full term of the election campaign and their candidacy.

Prospective candidates will not hold membership of any other party whilst representing the National Health Action Party.

2. Party Constitution

Please read the Party Constitution which is enclosed with this statement. As a National Health Action Party representative your signature on this document is acknowledgement that you have read and agree to abide by the constitution, subject to amendment.

3. Eligibility

The Electoral Commission states that people wishing to stand in elections must be over 18 years of age, be a British citizen or citizen of a Commonwealth country or the Republic of Ireland.

Candidates must be nominated by a specified number of electors of the constituency they wish to stand in. It is your responsibility as prospective candidates to ensure that your signatures are from electors who are actually on the electoral register in the current year, live within your constituency boundaries and are acquired at the proper time.

Candidates will ensure they use the authorised logo and description of the party at all times on electoral registration forms. Failure to conform to these regulations may mean your disqualification by the Electoral Commission.

The following may be disqualified from standing: members of the police forces; members of the armed forces; civil servants and judges; people who are subject to a bankruptcy restrictions order in England or Wales or a debt relief restrictions order; people who have been adjudged bankrupt in Northern Ireland; people who have had their estate sequestrated in Scotland.

Candidates will ensure they conform to all Electoral Commission requirements.

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There is a Code of Conduct for MPs which covers 7 general principles of conduct. These are: selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty and leadership. They are high principles which we hope all our representatives would strive to maintain at all times in public life whilst representing the party both during the election campaign and after.

In the same spirit as the House of Commons rules, these principles do not seek to regulate a candidate's private and personal life, unless such conduct should bring, or threaten to bring,

the National Health Action Party into disrepute. We would request, however, that candidates disclose, under strict confidentiality, anything which they feel may be used against them by other parties or the media during the course of election campaigning. A statement can then be prepared in advance to protect both you and the Party.

In the furtherance of this aim we request that you apply to Disclosure Scotland (this covers all the UK) for a Basic Disclosure Certificate. This process takes approximately 14 days. The website is www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/basicdisclosureonline/

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Candidates will appoint an election agent (you may act as your own, if you wish). There are legal responsibilities for proper management of election campaigns. These have particular regard to financial management. You, or your agent, will be responsible for reporting both donations (in cash or kind) and expenses to the Party Treasurer.

The Electoral Commission's guidance for candidates is available at www.electoralcommission.org.uk.

The Party will commit from central party funds to an initial offer of supplying the candidates with 5,000 leaflets, designed and printed (or a number of leaflets equal to the number of constituents in seats with fewer than 5,000 voters). These may be general leaflets for raising the profile of the party, or candidate specific leaflets, as required. The Party may not make firm commitments which exceed its existing funds and income, but in response to successful fundraising may extend the initial offer.

In addition to the commitments listed above the Party will place its resources at the disposal of the candidates in order to enhance the press coverage, membership support and local fund raising efforts of each constituency.

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Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Name: _____ **Constituency:** _____

(Copy to be retained by candidate)