

The Highland Council By-Election

Limitation of Candidate's Election Expenses

The calculation basis for election expenses is outlined below. Candidates and election agents are strongly advised to review this information carefully, as ensuring its accuracy is your responsibility.

The amount specified below is calculated using a fixed sum of £806, plus 7p for each entry in the register of electors as of 4 August 2026. This register is the one in effect on the final day for publishing the Notice of Election and should be used as the basis for calculating your election expenses.

Please note that the amounts provided represent the **maximum permitted limits**. Candidates and their election agents are responsible for verifying the calculation shown below, as its accuracy is not guaranteed. It is essential that you confirm the applicable limits by referring to the relevant legislation—specifically, the *Representation of the People (Variation of Limits of Candidates' Local Government Election Expenses) (Scotland) Order 2005*.

Ward	No of Entries in the register 4 Aug 2026	Amount per entry in register	Plus lump sum	Total Expenses Limit		
				for a candidate	for two joint candidates	for three or more joint candidates
Ward 3 – Wick and East Caithness	10,103	7p	£806	£1,513.21	-	-

Your attention is also drawn to the spending limits for **joint candidates**. At Local Government Elections, candidates can be considered to be joint candidates for the purpose of their election spending limits. Maximum spending limits are reduced in the case of joint candidates. Where there are **two** joint candidates, the limit for each candidate is reduced by a quarter. Where there are **three or more** joint candidates, the limit for each is reduced by a third.

Candidates are to be considered joint candidates if they do any of the following:

- Employ the same election agent
- Use the services of the same clerks or messengers
- Hire or use the same committee rooms at an election
- Publish joint addresses, circulars or notices at elections People can only be joint candidates when they stand in the same ward.

Queries about election expenditure are best directed to the Electoral Commission. The Elections Office only collects the records from you after the election and makes them available for inspection. While the Electoral Commission has a statutory role in connection with the administration of Scottish local council elections, they do not regulate spending by candidates at these elections. Candidates are responsible for ensuring that all election spending is fully and accurately reported. It is important to understand the applicable rules and to ensure that all expenditure is properly authorised, documented, and disclosed.

Any decision to undertake a prosecution in respect of candidate spending will be taken by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service. Although the Procurator Fiscal may have regard to the Commission's guidance, decisions regarding prosecution are for the Procurator Fiscal alone.

Contact details are: The Electoral Commission, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1YJ - Telephone: 0333 103 1928 - infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk

Last day to submit election spending returns is Thursday, 5 November 2026.