

## Election Glossary and FAQs

A General Election, a nation-wide poll taking place roughly every five years, sees people across the country take to polling stations to vote for their local constituency representative. Unlike Presidential Elections in countries such as the United States, the electorate do not vote directly for the Prime Minister. Instead, the party leader with the most MPs (or the ability to command a majority in the House of Commons) will be invited to form a Government by the Monarch.

Parliament is now dissolved, this means there are no longer MPs and only Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (PPCs) from the major parties, although they will still be available for urgent constituency casework. During this period Parliament will not sit, and while essential Government business will continue, there will be no major Government announcements.

This document contains a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the election, as well as a glossary of useful terms and a timeline for the election.

### Glossary

**Count:** Tallying up of votes within a constituency

**Dissolution:** Parliament stops sitting; no MPs

**Exit poll:** Final poll which drops when voting close at 10pm – recently very reliable indicator of result

**Hung Parliament:** When no party has an overall majority (>325 seats)

**Hustings:** Debate between candidates during an election period

**Manifesto:** Document featuring a party's programme for Government – if elected this is what they promise to do

**Prospective Parliamentary Candidate (PPC):** Party representative standing in a constituency (includes previous MPs)

**Purdah:** Civil servants prevented from any announcements that could be perceived as advantageous to governing party

### FAQs

#### How long will the campaign last?

The campaign will last for six weeks from the day Parliament is dissolved, with polling day taking place on 4th July.

#### What Government activity will take place during purdah?

Government will continue to operate in its day-to-day role, and officials will be available to support with any urgent or ongoing matters relating to the sector. However, anything non-urgent or requiring Ministerial approval or intervention will be paused. This means there will be no Government announcements over the six-week period of purdah.

#### Can I still reach out to my MP during the election campaign?



More people  
More active  
More often

As soon as Parliament is dissolved all MPs that are standing again revert to being PPCs, and so will no longer be able to act on behalf of their constituents as before, although they may still be able to assist with urgent constituent casework. However, you can write to PPCs using the template provided in the toolkit.

**Will there be local hustings for me to attend?**

Local hustings will be organised by local organisations/parties/associations and will usually be on a specific local issue. For full information on upcoming events in your constituency we recommend monitoring correspondence from PPCs.

**Will ukactive be hosting anything for the election?**

ukactive will be actively lobbying throughout the campaign to represent the interests of our members - the details of any events will be announced in due course.

**How will I hear about what the parties are promising?**

ukactive will provide full analysis of each major party's manifesto, as well as regular member updates throughout the campaign on relevant developments for the sector.

**When will we know the outcome of the election?**

We will officially know the outcome of the election on Friday, when the vast majority of seats have been counted. However, in recent years exit polls which are released at when the polls close on Thursday have predicted the outcome with a high degree of accuracy, so we will have a good idea of the outcome then.

**How many seats does a party need to form a majority Government?**

If a party receives 326 seats, enough to pass legislation if the party votes as one, it will be able to form a majority Government. Parties can also form a Government with fewer than 326 seats, although their power to pass legislation will be limited.

**What if no party achieves an overall majority?**

If no party receives an overall majority (officially 326 seats) then negotiations will begin on potential coalitions – where parties officially join together to form a Government – or ‘confidence and supply arrangements’ – where parties agree to support the minority Government on individual pieces of legislation. These negotiations can take hours, days, or weeks.

## Timeline

