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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Order)*

This Order increases the maximum amounts of candidates' election expenses at a parliamentary general election in the United Kingdom (Article 3) and at local government elections in England and Wales, except elections under the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (Article 4).

These amounts were last increased by the Representation of the People (Variation of Limits of Candidates' Election Expenses) Order 2001 ("the 2001 Order"), which is revoked by this Order (Article 5).

The increases were recommended by the Electoral Commission in their recommendation report, *Variation of election expenses at UK Parliamentary and local government elections* (the report). The increases have regard to the increase in the value of money since expense limits were last varied by the 2001 Order, and the impact of the effect of sections 90A to 90C of the 1983 Act (amended by section 134 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000) on the definition of election expenses. The value of property, goods, services or facilities provided free of charge or at a discount to the candidate or his election agent must now be included in the total of election expenses subject to maximum limits.

The maximum amount of a candidates' election expenses is made up of a fixed amount (expressed in pounds) plus a sum (expressed in pence) for each entry in the register of electors.

Copies of the report may be obtained from the Electoral Commission, Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HW. Telephone: 020 7271 0500. Fax: 020 7271 0505. Website: [www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk).