



Access to Public Information Request

Date of receipt: 16th March 2021

Date of response: 15th April 2021

Access to Public Information request regarding the report on the 2020 General Election and election expenditure

Request:

I'd like to know the following:

- When was the report from the States Assembly and Constitution and Constitution Committee into the 2020 General Election completed?
- How much was spent during the 2020 General Election by individual candidates? (Could the expenses be broken down by candidate)
- How much was spent during the 2020 General Election by parties? (Could the expenses be broken down by party)
- When is it expected the 2020 General Election report will be released to the general public and media?
- Can the report be published now? If so, can it be published alongside the answers to these questions?

Response provided by the States' Assembly & Constitution Committee:

The States' Assembly & Constitution Committee (SACC) is bound by States' Resolution¹ "to submit the report of the Registrar-General of Electors, together with the report of the Independent Election Observers, as an appendix to a Billet d'Etat as soon as possible, and no later than one year after the General Election."

The report of the Independent Election Expert Mission (which replaced the anticipated Election Observation Mission because of Covid restrictions) was published by the CPA in December 2020. The report of the Registrar-General was received by the Committee this month and the intention is to publish both reports under cover of a policy letter for consideration by the States at their June meeting. The latest date for submission of

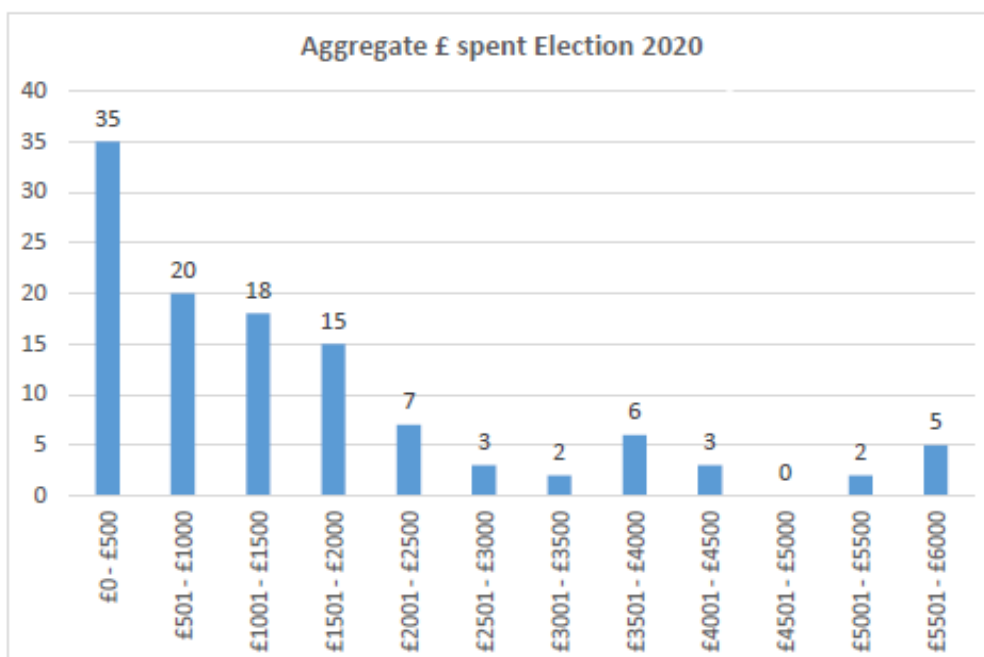
¹ Resolution XIII 10 on Billet d'Etat XXIV, 2019 available [here](#)

propositions for the June meeting is 10th May, meaning that the report will be in the public domain in less than a month's time.

The Reform (Guernsey) Law, 1948 does not expressly provide for the disclosure of the expenditure of individual candidates or parties and in the absence of such provision it would not be appropriate to share this information without explicit consent. Furthermore, as information provided to the Central Returning Officer for the purposes of scrutinising election expenditure and paying grants after the election, strictly speaking the information requested is not government information and does not therefore meet the requirements of an API request.

Notwithstanding this, the Committee acknowledges that there have been a number of questions about election expenditure and, whilst respecting the fact that it cannot publish details of individuals' or parties' expenditure without express permission, in the interests of transparency and openness it has provided some aggregated data on election expenditure. Three candidates did not submit returns and so the data relates to the 116 who did. None of those who did not submit a return was successful in the election.

Aggregate expenditure by candidates was as shown below:



Expenditure ranged from £0 to £5,859, with the majority of candidates (98) spending less than half of the permitted maximum of £6,000.

With regard to political parties, all remained within the £9,000 expenditure limit, with combined expenditure across all three parties totalling just under £19,000.