

Party-Interest Group Relationships in Contemporary Democracies

Thank you very much for participating in this online survey on behalf of your organisation. The questionnaire deals with your organisation's activities in political processes in general and its relationship with political parties in particular. The first part of the questionnaire focuses on organisational aspects and the second part concentrates on policy decisions. All questions are fact-oriented so feel free to consult colleagues if needed before answering them.

All questions deal with your organisation's activities at the national level in your country. At the beginning and at the end of the questionnaire, we ask for some basic background information about your organisation as well.

As the same questionnaire is sent to a wide range of associations and organisations, we simply ask about 'your organisation' throughout. Some questions might at first glance appear irrelevant in your particular case, but please try your best to answer them anyway for the sake of comparability across organisations and countries.

To answer a question, simply click on the relevant box next to the answer(s), or type the figure/text in the space provided.

When was your organisation founded? Please indicate the year below. Note: If a result of a merger, refer to the founding year of oldest predecessor.

Relationships between political parties and other organisations take various forms. In what follows we would like to hear about measures that enable contact and interaction between your organisation and political parties. Note that we make a distinction between the parties' organisation outside the parliament (the central party organisations) and the party groups in the national parliament (the parliamentary parties).

First, we would like to find out whether the organisation has any *joint arrangements or agreements or other organised routines* for contact with parties at the national level. As these materialise, and might fluctuate, over time, we would like you to think not only about how things are at present but how they have been for the last few years.

If you have anything you would like to add regarding general organisational measures that enable contact and interaction between your organisation and political parties, please use the field below:

Please indicate whether representatives of the organisation's executive leadership have been in contact with leading figures from one or more parties to discuss current issues of political relevance on a regular basis in the last 12 months:

Note: By leading party figures we mean the elected top leaders and other executive members in the national party organisation, the party's parliamentary leader(s) and party spokespersons in different policy fields. **By 'regular basis'** we mean that the meetings have been numerous and normalised.

	Yes	No	Don't know
Organisation leaders have met elected top leaders and other executive members in the national party organisation of one or more parties on a regular basis in the last year.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organisation leaders have met parliamentary party leader(s) and party spokespersons in different policy fields of one or more parties on a regular basis in the last year.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The next question concerns whether your organisation has contributed to the following decision-making processes in political parties in recent years: 1) election manifesto (a written declaration of the party's policy platform published by the party ahead of elections), 2) leadership selection of the party political leader (the person whose endorsement is needed for major policy or organisational changes and who appears in public to speak on behalf of the party on important issues) and, 3) candidate selection (for general elections to the House of Commons).

Did your organisation provide input/contribute to the following decision-making processes in one or more parties in recent years?

Note: Providing input formally means that the organisation could and did use organised opportunities to make suggestions and contribute to the discussion. **Providing input informally** means that the organisation made suggestions and contributed to the discussion outside organised settings (i.e. by contacting individual decision-makers).

	Yes	No	Not applicable	Don't know
Did your organisation provide formal input to one or more parties' formulation of the last election manifesto?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did your organisation provide informal input to one or more parties' formulation of the last election manifesto?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did your organisation (formally or informally) provide input into the decision-making the last time one or more parties selected a new party political leader?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did your organisation contribute to one or more parties' candidate selection process before the last general elections to the House of Commons (i.e. by finding, suggesting and backing candidates)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Next, we would like to hear your views on the overall relationship between your organisation and different political parties.

Overall, how strong has your organisation's organisational connection to the following parties (outside and inside the parliament) been in the last five years?

Note: By ‘strength of organisational connection’ we refer to both the strength/weakness of organised arrangements, agreements and routines for contact, and the frequency of the actual contact (formal and informal) that exists between the two sides. If there has been a significant change in the strength of the organisational connection recently, please report on the current status.

	No connection at all					Very strong connection	Don't know
	1	2	3	4	5		
Conservative Party	<input type="radio"/>						
Green Party	<input type="radio"/>						
Labour Party	<input type="radio"/>						
Liberal Democratic Party	<input type="radio"/>						
Plaid Cymru	<input type="radio"/>						
Scottish National Party	<input type="radio"/>						
United Kingdom Independence Party	<input type="radio"/>						

Overall, how strong has your organisation’s collaboration with the following political parties (outside and inside the parliament) been in the last five years?

Note: By ‘collaboration’, we mean to what extent you coordinate your strategies in order to achieve a shared policy goal. If there has been a significant change in the strength of collaboration recently, please report on the current status.

	No collaboration at all					Very strong collaboration	Don't know
	1	2	3	4	5		
Conservative Party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Green Party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Labour Party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Liberal Democratic Party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Plaid Cymru	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Scottish National Party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
United Kingdom Independence Party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

Organisations may give input to public policy decision-making in different ways. How important are the following types of actors when your organisation participates in public policy processes (e.g. by sharing expertise or commenting on policy proposals)?

	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not important at all	Don't know
Central party organisations/headquarters	<input type="radio"/>				
Parliamentary party groups (incl. their political staff)	<input type="radio"/>				
Parliamentary committees	<input type="radio"/>				
Members of parliament (incl. their individual political staff)	<input type="radio"/>				
National party leaders	<input type="radio"/>				
Ministers/state secretaries (incl. their political staff)	<input type="radio"/>				
Other individual politicians	<input type="radio"/>				
Officials in your national administration	<input type="radio"/>				
Other organisations and associations	<input type="radio"/>				
Media/journalists	<input type="radio"/>				
Professional consultancies/law firms/self-employed consultants	<input type="radio"/>				

*** Within which three of the following policy areas has your organisation been most active the last two years? Tick three boxes below (or fewer if your organisation has only been active in one or two policy fields). If you have been equally active within more than three policy areas, please choose three of them based on what areas you are most familiar with.**

- Agriculture/fisheries/forestry
- Economic affairs
- Finance and competition
- Taxation
- Customs and trade
- Energy
- Transport and infrastructure
- Research & technology
- Employment & labour market
- Healthcare & social affairs
- Consumers & food safety
- Regional policy
- Childcare, education and youth
- Immigration
- Justice, police & home affairs
- Environment

- Equal opportunities
- Culture
- Sport
- Information society (including media)
- Public administration
- Defence policy
- Development and humanitarian aid
- Foreign affairs
- None of the above
- Don't know

When trying to give input to a public decision-making process on a major policy issue, an organisation might as a 'standard procedure' talk to a particular party/parties and/or their representatives first, independent of whether they are in government or not.

Does your organisation usually talk to any of the following parties in particular when trying to give input into the decision-making process on a major issue within the policy areas you are most active?

Note: By 'party/parties in particular' we mean (representatives from) specific parties irrespective of whether or not they are in government (/in majority).

Foreign affairs

- Conservative Party
- Green Party
- Labour Party
- Liberal Democratic Party
- Plaid Cymru
- Scottish National Party
- United Kingdom Independence Party
- No, we don't usually talk to parties
- Don't know

Thinking about when your organisation has input into decisions made by parliamentary party groups about foreign affairs policies during the current legislative term, how would you rate the influence of your organisation on the following parties?

Note: If the present legislative term has just begun, please refer to the preceding period. To be considered 'very influential', your organisation's input must have had a decisive influence on the positions taken by the parliamentary party.

	Very influential	Somewhat influential	Not very influential	Not at all influential	Not applicable	Don't know
Conservative Party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Green Party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Labour Party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Liberal Democratic Party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plaid Cymru	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scottish National Party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
United Kingdom Independence Party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Thinking about these decision-making processes altogether: did one or more parties inspire a change in your organisation's policy positions during these processes, or did that never happen?

- Such a change never occurred
- Yes, it happened once
- Yes, it happened in a few cases
- Yes, it happened several times
- Don't know

Public debate about public policies often revolves around some basic ideological conflicts defined by the major political parties represented in Parliament. The organisations making an input into public decision-making are, in contrast, often non-partisan/formally politically neutral. But they might still represent interests with which parties are strongly concerned in their platforms and policies. Therefore, we would like to find out where your organisation places itself in your country's ideological landscape. Where would you locate your organisation's policy positions along various policy dimensions? Recall that the responses will be anonymised so it will not be possible for anyone to identify individual organisations' answers to this question.

Note: The scales run from 0 to 10. For reference, the policy positions of the different parties already are located along each dimension. The locations of the parties are based on the University of North Carolina's Chapel Hill expert survey from 2014. If your organisation does not have any clear position on the different dimensions, please choose 'not applicable/no position'.

Abbreviations:

Cons: Conservative Party

Green: Green Party

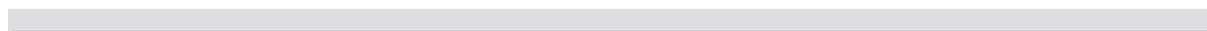
Lab: Labour Party

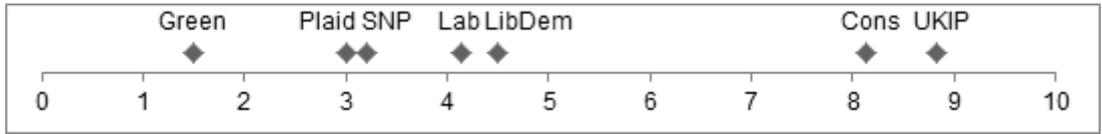
LibDem: Liberal Democratic Party

Plaid: Plaid Cymru

SNP: Scottish National Party

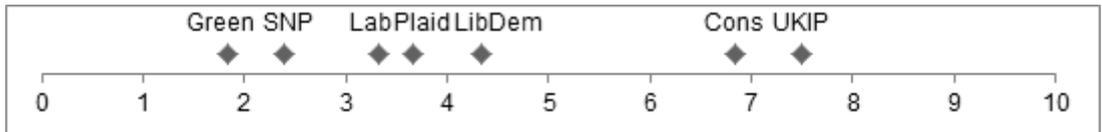
UKIP: United Kingdom Independence Party





Position on improving public services vs. reducing taxes: On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is 'Fully in favour of raising taxes to increase public services' and 10 is 'Fully in favour of cutting public services to cut taxes', where would you locate your organisation's policy position overall?

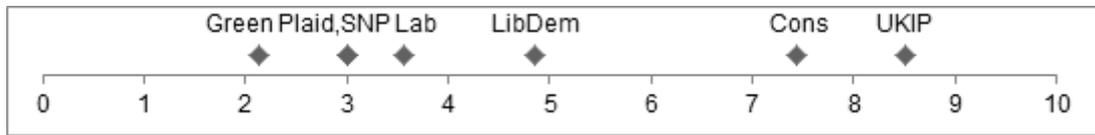
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- Not applicable/no position



Position on redistribution of wealth from the rich to the poor: On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is 'Fully in favour of redistribution' and 10 is 'Fully opposed to redistribution', where would you locate your organisation's policy position overall?

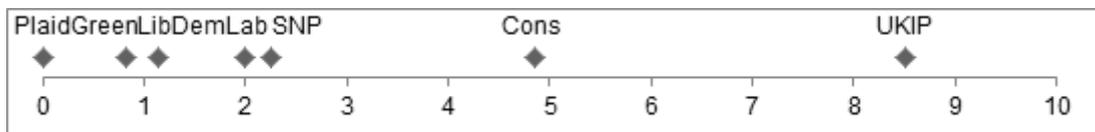
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

- 9
- 10
- Not applicable/no position



Position on state intervention in the economy: On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is 'Fully in favour of state intervention' and 10 is 'Fully opposed to state intervention', where would you locate your organisation's policy position overall?

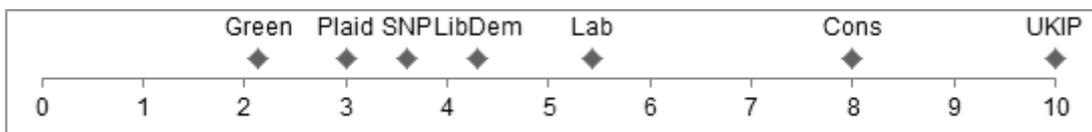
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- Not applicable/no position



Position on social lifestyle (e.g. homosexuality): On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is 'Strongly supports liberal policies' and 10 is 'Strongly opposes liberal policies', where would you locate your organisation's policy position overall?

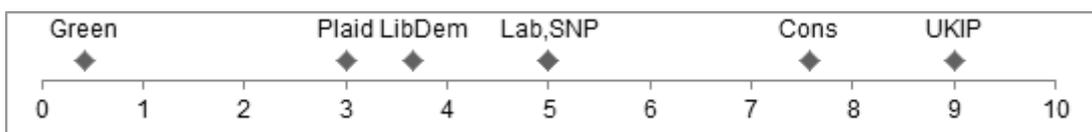
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- Not applicable/no position



Position on immigration policy: On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is 'Fully opposed to a restrictive policy on immigration' and 10 is 'Fully in favour of a restrictive policy on immigration', where would you locate your organisation's policy position overall?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- Not applicable/no position



Position towards the environment: On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is 'Strongly supports environmental protection even at the cost of economic growth' and 10 is 'Strongly supports economic growth even at the cost of environmental protection', where would you locate your organisation's policy position overall?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- Not applicable/no position

Next, we hope you can share some general information about the possible financial and material contributions from your organisation to parties. Please answer the questions even if donations are strictly regulated or even prohibited in your country (there is a 'not applicable' option to be used in that case). Recall that the responses will be anonymised so it will not be possible for anyone to identify individual organisations' answers to this question.

Please indicate whether your organisation has contributed to one or more parties nationally during the last five years with/by...

	Yes	No	Not applicable	Don't know
A direct financial contribution to the party	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An indirect financial contribution to the party (e.g. U.S. donation committees)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Offering people to work for the party during election campaigns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Offering the party material resources during election campaigns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Offering to lend the party premises during election campaigns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Official endorsement of the party (or its candidates) before the election	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Finally, we would like to get some background information about your organisation:

To which of the following organisational categories does your organisation belong?

- Membership organisation: individuals
- Membership organisation: companies
- Membership organisation: public authorities/agencies
- Membership organisation: other associations

- Membership organisation: other type than those mentioned above
- Membership organisation: multiple membership types
- Advocacy organisation (for private or public interests) without formal members (only supporters or no affiliates at all)
- Think tanks and other non-profit policy research
- Other

Follow-up questions regarding the organisation's number of members (if membership organisation), employees, and annual budget.

If there are any additional comments you would like to make, please insert them below.

Do you wish to receive a brief summary of main results in English after the completion of the research project?

- Yes
- No

Thank you so much for your time and help!

Please only click 'Send' if you have completed the whole questionnaire. After clicking on 'Send' the questionnaire will be considered completed and access to the survey closes.