

## Election Agent

Election or constituency agents work for a political party. They are responsible for the proper management of a candidate's election campaign. Many agents are part time and unpaid.

They may work only when an election is coming up.

### The Work

You could be:

- organising public meetings or answering questions from the media
- lodging nomination papers with the Electoral Registration Officer
- recruiting supporters, to increase support for your candidate
- organising fundraising events and dealing with the media
- designing and printing promotional material and delivering them door to door and speaking to the public
- keeping membership records and checking the electoral roll
- handing out leaflets or putting up posters (and making sure they are taken down after polling day)
- organising postal votes or transport for voters to the polling station
- attending the count of votes, which often lasts into early morning.

Election agents are responsible in law for managing a candidate's election campaign. This includes all financial aspects of the campaign such as election expenses.

### Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates may vary, depending on:

- where you work
- which party you work for
- the demand for the job.

Starting salaries for election or constituency agents tend to be between £18,000 and £21,000 a year. This might rise to between £25,000 and £30,000 a year, depending on experience and responsibilities.

Note that many agents are volunteers and are paid only expenses.

### Conditions

- You would be based in the party offices, but your work would take you out and about to a range of different places.
- The hours would be irregular, with a lot of evening and weekend work, especially during the run up to an election.
- The job would involve meeting a wide variety of people.
- At times you would work under a lot of pressure, working to tight deadlines and ensuring that all election

rules and regulations are followed.

- When election agents are unpaid, they may decide what hours they work.

## Getting In

- Jobs are very limited so competition is fierce.
- There are no set qualifications for entry to this job, but most entrants will have a degree.
- Any degree subject is acceptable, but there may be advantages in having studied subjects such as politics, economics, marketing, social policy, industrial relations, public relations or journalism.
- In most cases you will be expected to have had a lot of experience, usually voluntary, with the party concerned. For example you could apply for a constituency internship.
- The selection process may involve written and oral tests followed by an interview.
- Jobs are advertised locally, on party websites and on the [House of Commons W4MP](#) website.
- For some posts you may need a driving licence and access to a vehicle.

## What Does It Take

You should be:

- enthusiastic and dependable
- hard working and self-motivated
- methodical, well organised and able to organise others
- willing to work long and unsociable hours
- confident and resilient
- persuasive and able to put forward a good argument
- good at solving problems
- able to work to deadlines.

You should have:

- excellent communication skills, both spoken and written
- a detailed knowledge of electoral law
- good IT skills
- a flexible and adaptable approach
- a strong commitment to the policies of the party.

## Training

- Political parties have their own training schemes, and you would follow the scheme of the party you are working for.
- The training may be provided full time, part time or by distance learning, and it may involve weekend residential courses.
- In some cases, you may have to take examinations.

## Getting On

- You could go on to stand for election yourself – as a local councillor, MSP (Member of the Scottish Parliament), MP (Member of Parliament) or MEP (Member of the European Parliament).
- You could move into other full time paid work in your party, as a political researcher or working in party administration at headquarters.
- Being an election agent provides very good experience for moving on to senior administrative jobs in industry, commerce and the public sector or into journalism.

## More Information

The Labour Party employs election agents, each of whom is responsible for several constituencies.

The Conservative Party employs constituency agents (CAs) in a few Scottish constituencies. CAs are employed for several years and usually work through more than one election campaign.

## Contacts

### European Parliament Office in Scotland

Tel: 0131 557 7866

Email: [epedinburgh@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:epedinburgh@europarl.europa.eu)

Website: [www.europarl.org.uk](http://www.europarl.org.uk)

X: @EP\_Edinburgh

### House of Commons

Website: [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)

X: @HouseofCommons

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/UKHouseofCommons](http://www.facebook.com/UKHouseofCommons)

### Scottish Conservatives

Tel: 0131 524 0030

Website: [www.scottishconservatives.com](http://www.scottishconservatives.com)

X: @ScotTories

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ScottishConservatives](http://www.facebook.com/ScottishConservatives)

### Scottish Green Party

Tel: 08700 772 207

Website: [greens.scot](http://greens.scot)

X: @scotgp

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ScottishGreens](http://www.facebook.com/ScottishGreens)

### Scottish Labour Party

Tel: 0141 572 6900

Email: [scotland@labour.org.uk](mailto:scotland@labour.org.uk)

Website: [www.scottishlabour.org.uk](http://www.scottishlabour.org.uk)

X: @scottishlabour

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ScottishLabourParty](http://www.facebook.com/ScottishLabourParty)

### Scottish Liberal Democrats

Tel: 0131 337 2314

Website: [www.scotlibdems.org.uk](http://www.scotlibdems.org.uk)

X: @scotlibdems

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ScotLibDems](http://www.facebook.com/ScotLibDems)

### Scottish National Party (SNP)

Tel: 0800 633 5432

Email: [info@snp.org](mailto:info@snp.org)  
Website: [www.snp.org](http://www.snp.org)  
X: @theSNP  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/theSNP](http://www.facebook.com/theSNP)

**Scottish Parliament**

Tel: 0800 092 7500  
Email: [info@parliament.scot](mailto:info@parliament.scot)  
Website: [www.parliament.scot](http://www.parliament.scot)  
X: @ScotParl  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/scottishparliament](http://www.facebook.com/scottishparliament)

**Solidarity SSM**

Website: [solidarity.scot](http://solidarity.scot)

**UK Independence Party (UKIP) Scotland**

Website: [www.ukip.scot](http://www.ukip.scot)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/UKIPInScotland](http://www.facebook.com/UKIPInScotland)

## Statistics

Employment Status : Not available this career.

### Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

Predicted Employment Statistics : Not available this career.