

# Guide to becoming a Conservative Party Parliamentary Candidate

## Introduction

We want our Party to represent and reflect modern Britain and we are searching for our next cohort of candidates.

We are searching for people from across the community, with a wide variety of transferable skills and experiences. One of the qualities we value is authenticity, so don't pre-judge what you may think we want to see, just be yourself.

Becoming a Conservative MP is a journey like no other where you will have the opportunity to make a real and lasting difference to the constituents who elect you and to the future direction of our country.

The process to becoming a Conservative Party Candidate contains a number of stages. This guide will answer a number of FAQs about becoming a Prospective Parliamentary Candidate and how else you can get involved with the Party. We hope this guide will prove useful in informing your decision about whether or not this is the right path for you at present and hope you will choose to join us as we embark on this exciting journey.

## FAQs

### What does being an MP entail?

Becoming a Conservative MP is a vocation like no other and the tasks you will carry out include, but are not limited to, representing your constituents, constituency work, initiating, amending and reviewing legislation, campaigning, promoting the Party objectives and contributing to Party policy to reflect current national needs.

### What are the next steps if I want to apply?

#### 1. Eligibility Questions

The very first step will be to answer some basic eligibility questions which will determine whether you can apply to be an Approved Conservative Party Parliamentary Candidate both legally and in line with Party requirements.

It is your personal responsibility to ensure you meet these criteria so please read them carefully.



### Legal eligibility requirements to apply

- You must be over 18 years old
- You must be a UK, Irish or Commonwealth citizen
- You must not be currently subject to a bankruptcy restrictions order or debt relief restrictions order made by a court in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, or your estate must not have been sequestrated by a court in Scotland and you have not been discharged

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## Party eligibility requirements to apply

- You must be a resident in the UK for tax purposes
- You must have the right to work in the UK
- You must have been a member of the Conservative Party for at least three months
- You must subscribe to the Nolan principles of public life (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, leadership)
- You must not be a member of, work for or be a representative of another political party

## 2. The Online Application Form

At the end of this guide you will be able to access a link which will take you to our online platform where you will be invited to create an account and fill in our new application form. This will ask for you to enter information such as contact details, employment history and answer some competency-based questions.

You do not need to complete your application all at once, however once you begin your application, you will have **one month to complete it**.

Applications to apply to the Approved List of Candidates are in an online format, however if you have any difficulty in accessing this please contact us and we will strive to accommodate your needs.

## 3. The Webinar

If your application form meets our assessment criteria, you will be invited to attend a webinar. We want to ensure you are fully prepared and understand what is ahead of you. One of the conditions of attending an Assessment Centre is attending the Webinar.

The Webinar will cover:

- Due Diligence Checks
- The Assessment Centre – competencies, exercises and outcomes
- The Development Centre

## 4. Due Diligence Checks

If you decide that you wish to progress with your application, you will be invited to start the due diligence process.

This aspect of the application process will cost £110.

Once your payment has been submitted online you will be invited to our due diligence portal where you can input your information. The checks that will be undertaken will include the production of an in-depth due diligence report and a DBS check.

## 5. Assessment Centre

If you fulfill all the requirements you will be invited to book an Assessment Centre from a list of dates and locations. The cost of this will be £250.

At the Assessment Centre, formally known as a PAB, we look specifically at the competencies, skills and abilities which are most prevalent in successful

Candidates and holders of Public Office.

At its core, the Assessment Centre looks for you to demonstrate good judgement, a breadth of life experience, sound political conviction and integrity. From these stem various competencies that will be tested across the exercises presented to you at the Assessment Centre.

You should seek to demonstrate such skills and competencies from a variety of different areas including your political, professional, personal and voluntary/charitable life.

If you begin the process and your circumstances change or you decide it is not right for you at any point, you can withdraw your application and start again once you are ready.



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### What assistance is provided if I am a disabled applicant?

We welcome applications from those who have disabilities, and if you want to discuss any particular concerns then please contact the Candidates Team. We have worked with the disability organisation SCOPE to survey our processes and help us to remove any barriers to disabled applicants.

As part of the recruitment process you are asked what we can do to assist you to achieve your potential, and following discussion with you, we will make whatever reasonable adjustments we can to fit your personal circumstances. This includes any measures required at the venues for your Assessment Centre.

### What happens once I pass the Assessment Centre?

If you pass the Assessment Centre, you will be added to our Approved List of Conservative Party Candidates. Our modern and dynamic recruitment and development platform will be the home of your Candidate experience.

You will be invited to sign up to our 'Candidate Portal' where you will be able to access your bespoke training and development pathway, update your information and apply for any vacancies. The type of pass you receive will be personalised based on your assessment and will determine your pathway and the vacancies you can apply for.

Being a member of the Approved List of Conservative Party Candidates carries with it a number of rights and responsibilities which you will be required to sign up to. We are dedicated to the provision of an excellent service to our candidates, delivered with professionalism, respect, transparency and a caring attitude. You are expected to play an active role in the Party and take up appropriate training courses.

### Are there other ways to get involved if I am not yet ready to apply or if I haven't passed the Assessment Centre?

Volunteering with your local Conservative association and area helps to build-up your campaigning experience. You will learn and develop key skills by having access to training opportunities, whilst making a difference in elections. Our volunteering structure is fluid and works around you. From supporting local campaigns near you, assisting in marginal electoral areas or getting involved with national campaigns, we will facilitate your involvement and offer one-to-one mentoring to further your progress.

If you are interested please email [volunteer@conservatives.com](mailto:volunteer@conservatives.com).

### Are there other ways I can get involved with the Party?

If you decide the Parliamentary route is not for you, there are many ways you can get involved with your local community whether this is through being an activist supporting campaigns or standing yourself as a Councillor, a School Governor, as a Police and Crime Commissioner Candidate, a Mayoral Candidate, a GLA Candidate, a Senedd or Member of the Scottish Parliament Candidate. You could also apply for a Public Appointment and you can find details of the current vacancies [here](#).

#### Useful websites:

[www.conservatives.com](http://www.conservatives.com)

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

[www.conservativedisabilitygroup.com](http://www.conservativedisabilitygroup.com)

