

# Prospect's political fund opt-out notice

**As a campaigning organisation, Prospect engages with politicians and political parties in a number of ways, from writing letters to individual MPs to lobbying party conferences. Any union involved in 'political' activities – as laid down in the Trade Union Acts of 1913 and 1984 – must finance them from a political fund which is separate from its other income.**

**What are 'political' activities?** – Political activities used to be defined as giving direct support to people in public office – MPs, councillors and candidates. The 1984 Act widened the definition of political activities to include spending on literature, documents or film, 'the main purpose' of which could be interpreted as seeking to persuade anyone to vote for or against a political party or candidate. These activities extend to the provision of 'any service' for use by political parties. What constitutes a service is not defined – whether it be a briefing, reimbursement of expenses or hospitality for an MP.

**Politically independent** – Under the rules of the fund and of Prospect, affiliations or donations to any party are prohibited unless a full ballot of the members so decides.

**How has the fund been used?** – The fund is separate from Prospect's general funds. It is used to support campaigns that would otherwise be at risk of legal challenge. If Prospect is challenged over any expenditure, for example, in the middle campaign could continue. In recent years it has been used in campaigns on forensic science, broadband investment, indexation of pensions, redundancy compensation, science policy, defence jobs, pensions, etc.

**How it works** – Political fund contributions are voluntary. You have the right to opt-out at any time.

**Accountability** – The fund is used only for campaigning that could be deemed political. All expenditure from the fund must be reported to the Certification Officer.

**Full details of the political fund and the rules can be found at <https://prospect.org.uk/about/politics/>**



## Questions?

Email membership@  
prospect.org.uk  
or membership@  
bectu.org.uk  
or call 0300 600 1878

*A member who chooses not to contribute to the political fund shall not, by reason of not contributing, be excluded from any benefits of the union or be placed in any respect either directly or indirectly under a disability or at a disadvantage as compared with other members of the union (expect in relation to control of the political fund).*

“It’s not about supporting a political party or getting involved with the cut and thrust of politics. It’s about being able to campaign in areas that may be deemed to be political.”

Prospect member

“It’s vital that we maintain the right to lobby politicians on issues that directly impact our members’ working lives.”

Bectu member

At just 60p a year, Prospect’s political fund enables us to campaign on your behalf.



# Prospect political fund opt-out notice

The political fund contribution rate is 60p. Members opting out will receive an adjustment in subscriptions.

Return to:  
**FREEPOST  
 PROSPECT  
 MEMBERSHIP**  
*(no other details or stamp required)*  
 or email  
**membership@  
 prospect.org.uk**

<b>Prospect</b>		<b>Please use BLOCK CAPITALS</b>
<b>Political fund opt-out notice</b>		
I do not want to contribute to the union’s political fund. By giving this notice, I will be exempt from making any payments to the political fund.		
Signature		
Print name		
Postal or email address		
Date		