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The pre-election period describes the time immediately before elections or referendums when specific restrictions on communications and activity are in place across much of the public sector. This is to ensure no action is taken that could be seen as politically partisan or as having a detrimental effect on the outcome of an electoral or referendum campaign.

The government publishes [election guidance for civil servants](#) on conduct during these periods.

We're all (staff, temporary workers, secondees and relevant contractors) bound by these restrictions.

Ahead of the general election on 4 July, see our [Political activities guidance for staff during this pre-election period](#).

Related keywords: *purdah*