

Peter Kellow
Democratic Republican Party
4 Ventura Drive
Colchester
Essex
CO1 2FG

3 November 2014

Dear Mr Kellow,

# Democratic Republican Party Request to modify your party name on the register of political parties

I am writing to inform you that we have conducted a review of party identity marks (party names, descriptions, and emblems) on the registers of political parties. The law requires the Commission to form an opinion on whether an identity mark would be likely to be confusing, misleading or hinder an elector's understanding of the ballot paper. Our review therefore considered these questions.

The review came to the view that your party name **Democratic Republican Party** is similar to another previously registered party name **National Republican And Democratic Party**.

We are of the opinion that if these two party names appeared on the same ballot paper a voter would be likely to confuse the two parties with each other. In addition if one party stood a candidate in an election and the other did not, we believe it would be likely that a voter would be confused between the two party names.

We appreciate that you registered your party in February 2012 and that you have used the name in campaigns since. We have now taken into account recent elections, our review and research that we commissioned.

Accordingly this letter requests that you apply to make changes to your party name and notifies you of how the Commission will proceed in the event of this not taking place.

The Electoral Commission 3 Bunhill Row London EC1Y 8YZ





Kindly write to us by **18 November 2014** at the latest with your response to our request to make changes to your party name.

### The requested changes and what do you need to do

#### We request that you:

- a) Provide a replacement for the above party name, or
- b) Submit another version of your party name that considers the above issue

If you do not wish to proceed as outlined, please let us know your reasons, addressing the above issues and the statutory tests set out in Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA 2000). We will take into account any representations you make when making a final decision.

# How to submit an application to change your entry on the register of political parties

There will be no fee to modify your party name.

Submitting your application to change your party name is straightforward using <u>PEF Online</u>. This is our online portal which allows you to maintain your party's registration. Once your party officers are registered to use PEF Online, you will not need to submit anything on paper. To ensure that you are not charged a fee online, please contact the Party and Election Finance team on 020 7271 0616 or email pef@electoralcommission.org.uk before you submit your application.

If you prefer, you can apply to make a change to your entry on the register of political parties by post. All the forms you will need and our related guidance are available on our website at <a href="https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/party-or-campaigner/guidance-for-political-parties/registering-and-maintaining-a-party">www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/party-or-campaigner/guidance-for-political-parties/registering-and-maintaining-a-party</a>

We have guidance to help you apply to amend your details at: <a href="http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/">http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/</a> data/assets/pdf\_file/0009/107694/to-names-rp.pdf.

Please contact the Party and Election Finance team on 020 7271 0616 or email <a href="mailto:pef@electoralcommission.org.uk">pef@electoralcommission.org.uk</a> if you have any questions.



## What happens after 18 November 2014

The Commission will come to a decision in relation to your party name. This will be done in accordance with the statutory tests set out PPERA 2000. If we receive any applications to change your details on the register from your party these will be considered, as will any representations you make to us.

We look forward to your early response and trust your party will be able to agree and act on the requests set out in this letter.

Yours sincerely

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**Bob Posner** 

Electoral Commission Director of Party and Election Finance and Legal Counsel