

10th January 2025

Dear Angela Rayner MP,

Recent stories about the possibility of Elon Musk, a foreign national, donating a large sum to one of the UK's political parties has put the spotlight on a badly kept secret which pre-dates Musk's latest foray into UK politics: foreign money can easily find its way into our political system.

A bold solution is at hand to deal with this risk: a strict annual cap on political donations from any company or individual.

But less extensive measures are also available.

In its report entitled Regulating Election Finance published in 2021, the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) listed a number of recommendations designed to stop foreign money seeping into our system via UK companies or unincorporated associations. They would have severely curtailed the ability of foreign nationals or entities to channel money to parties or candidates. Sadly the proposals were rejected by the then government.

We welcome this government's commitment to tackling this problem. It could demonstrate this by acting now on the CSPL's recommendations.

No foreign national, either directly or indirectly through a company they control, should be allowed to buy their way into UK politics.

Pushing the CSPL's proposals through would stop this happening.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Brake - Director of Unlock Democracy

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/60e460b1d3bf7f56801f3bf6/CSPL_Regulating_Election_Finance_Review_Final_Web.pdf