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# electoral administration bulletin



Issue 1 (England and Wales) – 17 January 2012

## Service Voters Registration Campaign

Our service voters' campaign will be running throughout February and we would appreciate your help so we can evaluate its success. We would be grateful if you could record the total number of Electoral Commission service voter declarations you receive from 1 February–16 March.

Working in partnership with the MoD, our campaign aims to encourage members of the Armed Forces and their families to register to vote. The MoD has instructed military units to hold a registration day during February and we have produced registration packs to assist with the day.

Each unit has a Unit Registration Officer (URO) who is responsible for encouraging registration. If there are any military units based in your area we recommend that you establish a link with your local URO (if you haven't already done so) and work together to encourage registration.

Service voter registration packs can be ordered via [ecpublications@ecgroup.co.uk](mailto:ecpublications@ecgroup.co.uk) or 0845 8500 501 (quote ECSV2012). Please note each pack contains 50 service voter booklets which contain a registration form and proxy/postal applications; one A3 poster; four A4 posters. Or visit [www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/armedforces](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/armedforces) to download.

Please monitor returns from 1 February–16 March and email your results to Elaine Spooner at [espooner@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:espooner@electoralcommission.org.uk) by 30 March. It would be helpful if you could also record which of the three services (Army, Royal Navy or Royal Air Force) the elector belongs to (there is a tick box on the registration form).

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## Fees and Charges Update

The Electoral Claims Unit received 100% of claims for the UK-

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### Elections, Referendums and Registration Working Group

Summary of discussions at the 10 January meeting

the  
register

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wide referendum by the 5 January deadline. This is a real achievement and we are incredibly grateful for all the time and effort that you put into completing your returns. ECU is now contacting authorities where they have queries about the figures provided and it would be helpful if you could respond to their enquiries as soon as you are able.

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## New Publications

Our suite of guidance for Candidates and Agents for the May elections is now available on our [website](#).

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## Recent Meetings

The Elections, Referendums and Registration Working Group met in Bunhill Row on 10 January. Click [here](#) and scroll down to see the agenda. The minutes will be published on our website shortly, but the main issues discussed were as follows:

**Neighbourhood planning referendums** (arising from provisions in the Localism Act 2012 – **England only**): these could start to take place from autumn 2012 and CLG are currently working on draft regulations. The conduct rules will follow the rules for other local authority-level referendums and elections as closely as possible. There will be a generic question specified in legislation, which the Commission will be consulted on.

**Elections during the canvass** (Police and Crime Commissioner elections in November 2012): the Commission and the Cabinet Office are looking at the practical implications of holding the PCC elections during the canvass period, and how this can best be managed in the interests of voters.

**Proposed changes to the timetable for UK Parliamentary general elections**: the Cabinet Office intend to include provisions in a forthcoming Bill to extend the UKPGE timetable to 25 days, in line with the local election timetable for England and Wales, and harmonise key dates within the timetable. To accompany these changes, they are also proposing making provision for two additional updates to the register during the election timetable, and the practical implications of this were considered by the group.

**Changes to Royal Mail products post-May 2012**: representatives from Royal Mail updated the group and attendees from a number of software and print suppliers on forthcoming changes to services which will come into effect after the May 2012 elections and will include Walksort being withdrawn. The group discussed the implications of these changes on the design and delivery of election materials, particularly poll cards and annual canvass forms. There will also be price rises coming into effect, but the tariffs are not yet available.

**Forms and notices for Police and Crime Commissioner elections**: representatives from the Home Office attended to set out their proposed approach to prescribing forms and notices to be used at PCC elections, and to discuss the

practical implications of this approach with electoral administrators, software suppliers and printers.

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