

# electoral administration bulletin



Issue 74 (England and Wales) – 29 April 2014

## 22 May polls: polling station ‘selfies’

We have recently been asked about voters taking photos of themselves (‘selfies’) in polling stations and whether this is allowed.

The law relating to obtaining information in polling stations and disclosing such information is complex. Given the risk that someone taking a photo inside a polling station may be in breach of the law, whether intentionally or not, our advice is that you should not allow photos to be taken inside polling stations.

You should ensure that all polling station staff are aware of this guidance. You might also want to consider displaying a notice inside polling stations to make clear that photography of any kind (including photos taken on mobile phones) is not permitted.

## 22 May polls: post-election supply of data and information

We have now published our data collection forms, including the statutory statements as to postal ballot papers, Form R and Form K, for the scheduled European Parliamentary election and local and mayoral elections in England on 22 May.

You can find the relevant data return forms on our May 2014 European Parliamentary election webpages under [‘Part F: After the declaration of results’](#) in English and [‘Rhan F: Ar ôl cyhoeddi'r canlyniadau’](#) in Welsh. In addition to returning these forms, you will also need to provide a copy of the notice of declaration of results for all polls taking place in your local authority area.

We have produced a guidance note providing detailed information on what should be returned and to where, which is available [here in English](#) and [here in Welsh](#).

The deadline for the return of electoral data is **Friday 13 June 2014**. We have notified the electoral management system software providers of the deadline for returns and the information that is to be submitted.

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## Contents

### 22 May polls: polling station ‘selfies’

Our advice about photos in polling stations.

### 22 May polls: post-election supply of data and information

Links to our data collection forms, to be returned by Friday 13 June..

### Registered third parties’ access to the register

Reminder of our guidance on access to the register by registered third parties.

### ‘Join the Vote’ campaign: further information about the campaign and a request from Bite the Ballot for information about the outcomes of the campaign

Further details about the Join the Vote campaign, which launched on 26 April, and a request for feedback on the campaign from Bite the Ballot.

### Scottish independence referendum

Confirmation of the designation of lead campaigners by the Electoral Commission.

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To inform our post-election report we will also be asking for feedback after the 22 May polls from ROs and electoral administrators on their experiences, and will provide further information on how you can give us your views in the Bulletin to be issued during the week commencing 26 May.

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## **Registered third parties' access to the register**

After receiving further queries recently about third party access to the register, we wanted to remind you of our guidance on this subject which is contained in Part 4: 'Maintaining the register throughout the year' of our electoral registration guidance, available [here in English](#) and [here in Welsh](#).

A third party that meets all the criteria for being registered as a third party will be registered by the Commission and will then be entitled on request to a copy of the following, which they can then use only for prescribed purposes:

- the full register
- any notice setting out an alteration to the register
- the list of overseas electors
- the current absent voters list
- the final absent voters list for a particular election

If a valid request is made for any of this information, it must be supplied.

You can use the following link to access our PEF online database of registered parties to check whether a third party has been registered:

<https://pefonline.electoralcommission.org.uk/search/searchintro.aspx>

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## **'Join the Vote' campaign: further information about the campaign and a request from Bite the Ballot for information about the outcomes of the campaign**

In [Bulletin 73](#) we included information about the 'Join the Vote' registration campaign being coordinated by 38 Degrees and Bite the Ballot ahead of the 22 May polls. We have been given some more information about the campaign which we thought it would be useful to share with you. Bite the Ballot are also keen to gather information about how successful the campaign is in registering people and have asked if you can, where possible, record some information about forms received and resulting registrations which they can use to inform their future campaigns. Details of their request are included below.

### **Message about the 'Join the Vote' campaign**

The 'Join the Vote' campaign launched on 26 April, when around 4,500 volunteers posted registration forms and a letter about the campaign through their neighbours' doors. Each volunteer has been sent 50 'Join The Vote' registration forms (a copy of which was circulated with [Bulletin 73](#)) and a badge to identify themselves as a 'Join The Vote' volunteer. Volunteers have been made aware that applications must be received by EROs by the 6 May registration deadline.

You can find out where volunteers are active in your area using the

postcode search on the 'Join the Vote' website:  
<http://www.jointhevote.org/>

### **Request for information from Bite the Ballot**

Bite the Ballot have asked if you could record, if possible, the number of 'Join The Vote' forms you receive and the number of new registrations made as a result of these forms. They will provide an online form for you to submit this information, and the link to this form will be included in a future Bulletin. There will also be a comment box on the form for you to provide any feedback you may have about the campaign.

Bite the Ballot recognise that this is a very busy time for electoral administrators and wanted to thank you for any assistance you can give them to help to monitor the effectiveness of the campaign and inform their future campaigns.

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### **Lead campaigners designated for the Scottish independence referendum**

Last week the Commission designated 'Yes Scotland' and 'Better Together' as the lead campaigners at the Scottish independence referendum being held on 18 September this year.

The two campaigners will now have access to specific benefits set out in law during the regulated 'referendum period' which begins on 30 May. These include a spending limit of £1.5 million, a free delivery of campaign material to voters, referendum broadcasts and the use of public rooms. You can find more information about designation and the referendum more generally [on our website](#).

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