

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 231 (Scotland) – 28 June 2019

Contents

Electoral Commission response to proposals to reform the annual canvass

Information on and a link to the Commission's response, which was published today (Friday 28 June).

Legislation update and call for evidence

Information on and links to two recently published pieces of legislation and how to respond to a call for evidence on the Referendums (Scotland) Bill.

Job vacancies at the Electoral Commission

Information about two job vacancies and how to apply.

EA Bulletins are issued on a regular basis. They are one of our key channels for communicating with Returning Officers, Electoral Registration Officers and their staff. Past issues of Bulletins for England, Scotland and Wales are available [here](#). You can also [subscribe to the EA Bulletins](#).

Please [keep us informed](#) of any staff changes within your team. This will help us to keep our mailing lists up-to-date.

We are sending you this newsletter as it contains important information about the Electoral Commission's work which is relevant to you. The newsletter forms part of the

Electoral Commission response to proposals to reform the annual canvass

We have today, Friday 28 June, published [our response](#) to the UK Government's draft Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) (Amendment) Regulations 2019. This also forms our substantive response to the Scottish Government's draft Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) (Amendment) Scotland Regulations 2019.

We welcome the proposals for reform of the annual canvass process and see these as an important first step in modernising the electoral registration system.

When implemented, the changes will enable greater efficiency and allow EROs to focus their increasingly limited resources on identifying eligible electors who should be added to the register and necessary deletions from the register.

Implementation of the proposed canvass reforms

The proposed changes are highly dependent on new data matching mechanisms. If they are to be implemented in good time for the start of the next canvass in summer 2020, coordinated and timely development and testing of the digital elements of the reforms will be essential.

To ensure that EROs have at least six months to plan effectively for the changes and have the skills and capacity to deliver them, the legislation that will enable a reformed annual canvass should be laid for approval by parliaments and in place by no later than December 2019.

Continuing reform and modernisation

There are further reforms which should be part of modernising the electoral registration process and would make it easier for citizens and EROs. For example, it could be more widely integrated into other public service transactions to prompt and enable simultaneous

registration applications when citizens access other public services.

Better use could also be made of data to compile and maintain electoral registers, as is done in other countries. EROs could, for example, use robust data from other public organisations throughout the year to identify people who are entitled to be registered but are not. These reforms would contribute to delivering improved accuracy and completeness of the registers.

We have carried out feasibility studies to show how these changes could be implemented in the UK and will publish these in the summer.

Legislation update and call for evidence.

As many will be aware, the [Referendums \(Scotland\) Bill](#) has now been published by the Scottish Government. The Finance & Constitution Committee in the Scottish Parliament is [seeking evidence](#) in relation to the Bill. The deadline to respond is Friday 9 August.

The Scottish Government has also now published the [Scottish Elections \(Franchise and Representation\) Bill](#). We anticipate the Standards Committee will be issuing a call for written evidence in the next few weeks. We will update you in a future Bulletin when this has happened.

Job vacancies at the Electoral Commission

We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

- Senior Adviser - Electoral Guidance
- Regional Liaison Officer for the Midlands

The closing date for applications is 21 July 2019.

The location of the Senior Adviser role is flexible: applicants could be home-based, or be based in one of our offices in London, Cardiff or Edinburgh. For an informal discussion about the Senior Adviser role, please contact Mark Pascoe, Guidance Manager on 020 7271 0690.

The Regional Liaison Officer role is home-based and will involve frequent travel across the Midlands and to other parts of the UK. Please contact Chris Hinde, Regional Manager (Midlands) on 020 7271 0560 for an informal discussion about this role.

If you would like further information, or would like to apply, please visit the [recruitment page](#) of our website.

The Electoral Commission
City Chambers, High Street

Edinburgh, EH1 1YJ
Tel: 0333 103 1928

Textphone: 18001 0131 225 0200
infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk

Electoral Commission's public task which has its basis in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. We will manage your personal information and contact details in line with the General Data Protection Regulation and UK data protection legislation as outlined in our privacy notice (<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/privacy-notice>)

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, you may [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

© The Electoral Commission 2019