

# electoral administration bulletin

The  
Electoral  
Commission



Issue 243 (Wales) – 28 June 2019

## 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.

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 Parliament and in place by no later than December 2019.

The Welsh and Scottish governments are bringing forward their own regulations to apply these reforms to their respective local government registers. It is important that the regulations are as consistent as possible across Great Britain, to reduce the risk of confusion for EROs and electors. Also vital for a timetable to the canvass in summer 2020 is that the legislation has been laid for approval by the National Assembly for Wales and Scottish

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

### 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](#).

If there is a new RO/ERO appointment in your authority please contact the team in Wales by emailing [infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk)

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's public task which has its basis in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. We will

Parliament 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.

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### **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.

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