

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission

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Issue 243 (Scotland) – 13 November 2019

UK Parliamentary general election: security guidance for candidates and agents

We wanted to provide you with a reminder of the security guidance for candidates and agents that is available on our [website](#), and to highlight how you can help, by sharing this guidance with all candidates and agents.

The [guidance for election candidates in Scotland](#) has been produced by Police Scotland to help those who want to participate in the election understand when behaviour goes beyond political debate and may be unlawful.

Police Scotland are keen to engage with candidates and election agents and it is their intention to contact all candidates directly to provide advice.

To that end we have asked Returning Officers to provide us with the contact details for candidates and election agents in their areas following the close of nominations on Thursday 14 November. Please email this information to infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk.

UK Parliamentary general election: update on party names, descriptions and emblems

Since [Bulletin 242](#), we have made updates to the following on the register of political parties:

- [Cornerstone](#)
- [The Universal Good Party](#)
- [Co-operative Party](#)
- [Residents for Guildford and Villages](#)
- [The Brexit Party](#)

You can find full details of what amendments have been made in our [list of recent decisions to approve or reject applied-for party](#)

[names, descriptions and emblems.](#)

When receiving nominations, Returning Officers must check that the party name or any description given on a nomination form, as well as the requested emblem, is registered on the Commission's [register of political parties](#) and that the details provided match the registration. To ensure you are viewing the most up-to-date information, you may need to delete your browser history or refresh the page. If you are unsure how to do this, your IT team should be able to advise you.

We have recently received a number of queries relating to parties who have changed their registered Nominating Officer. As set out in [Part C](#) of our guidance, while you can check who the Nominating Officer for a particular party is by referring to the [Commission's register of political parties](#), as long as the person who has signed the certificate of authorisation claims that they have been authorised to do so by the registered Nominating Officer, the certificate should be taken at face value.

Emblem Zip file

A Zip file of emblem images is available on our [website](#) and was last updated on 5 November. You should not use any Zip files downloaded before this date for any purpose.

While the Zip file can be used by your printer to prepare ballot papers, it is the information on the Commission's [register of political parties](#) that should be used for confirming which emblem and description to print on the ballot papers. **You should therefore ensure that you and your printers only download and use the Zip file once nominations have closed.**

Should you have any questions about the registers, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#).

UK Parliamentary general election: easy read guide for voters

On 7 November, we launched an [easy read guide](#) for voters with a learning disability. The guide has been produced in partnership with Mencap, a charity which works with people with a learning disability.

The guide has been designed to help those with a learning disability understand how to take part, register and vote in the UK Parliamentary general election on 12 December.

Consultation on the Electoral Commission's Codes of Practice for election spending for political parties and candidates at National Assembly for Wales elections

The Electoral Commission has launched a consultation on Codes of Practice for election spending for candidates and political parties. These Codes apply to National Assembly for Wales elections. Powers contained in the Scottish Elections (Reform) Bill would allow the Commission to produce similar codes for Scottish Parliament elections, and we intend to consult on equivalent Scottish codes in 2020.

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'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.

You can find the [Codes and the consultation on our website](#).

Whilst current law and guidance is clear, we want to ensure that the rules are as comprehensive as possible for candidates and parties.

Our aims in preparing the Codes are to:

- Provide guidance for candidates, their agents and political parties about what items of spending count towards the spending limit and are to be reported
- Provide enhanced clarity to political parties and candidates about when spending (including notional spending) should be included in a candidate return and when it should be in a political party return
- Ensure that there is clarity and consistency in the reporting of digital spending by political parties and candidates.

We will review the responses we receive and consider how your feedback can be used to ensure the Codes deliver these aims. Following approval by the National Assembly for Wales, we plan to publish the Codes in time for the start of the regulated period for the elections scheduled to take place in May 2021.

We would be grateful to receive your feedback. The consultation closes on **Friday 31 January 2020**.

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