

# electoral administration bulletin

The  
Electoral  
Commission



Issue 255 (Wales) – 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 has been produced by The National Police Chief's Council, working with the Crown Prosecution Service and the Electoral Commission, to help those who want to participate in the election understand when behaviour goes beyond political debate and may be unlawful.

In addition, local police forces are keen to engage with candidates directly and to provide support in relation to security advice.

Returning Officers and their teams can assist local police forces with engaging with all candidates directly, by seeking consent from candidates to facilitate direct contact from the police at a local level. To do this, you should ask all candidates the following:

- Does the candidate wish to have direct contact from the police to discuss their personal security?
- If so, is the candidate willing to allow the Returning Officer to share their personal contact details with the local police?
- If so, do they provide their consent for the police to retain these details to enable them to make contact?

Returning Officers should then provide the details of all candidates who have consented as above to their local police SPOC by Monday 18 November.

Local police forces will also be arranging additional drop-in sessions

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Information on party names, descriptions and emblems in relation to the UK Parliamentary general election.

### UK Parliamentary general election: easy read guide for voters

Information about and a link to an easy read guide for voters, produced by the Commission and Mencap.

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

Information on and a link to the Commission's consultation, which closes on Friday 31 January 2020.

for candidates to attend, where they will be able to meet police SPOCs in person and discuss any security concerns that they have. Dates for these sessions will be provided to each Returning Officer by no later than 14 November, and the National Police Chief's Council have requested Returning Officers help in providing these details to each candidate.

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

Since [Bulletin 254](#), we have made updates to the following on the register of political parties:

- [Cornerstone](#)
- [The Universal Good Party](#)
- [Co-operative Party](#)
- [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, (Acting) 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](#).

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### UK Parliamentary general election: easy read guide for voters

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.

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

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.

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.

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### 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.

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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