

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 275 (England) – 26 February 2020

May 2020 polls: Verification at combined PCC and local government elections

We have received a number of queries regarding the timing of the verification and counting of ballot papers where PCC elections are combined with local government elections (either principal area or parish council elections) in part, but not all, of a local authority area.

As set out in [Part E](#) of our guidance for combined Police and Crime Commissioner and local government elections in England, the verification of all ballot boxes must be completed for all polls for the whole of the voting area (i.e. the local authority area) before the counting of votes for any contest can be commenced.

This means that if you have a local government election in one or more wards in the local authority area, you cannot start to count the votes for those polls until you have completed the verification for all polls for the whole of the local authority area.

May 2020 polls: Your vote is yours alone campaign resources

Our resources to raise awareness of and help prevent electoral fraud are available to [download from our website](#). These include:

- videos
- posters
- leaflets
- online banners
- template social media posts and graphics

There are resources for both postal voting and voting in a polling station.

The campaign, which we are delivering in partnership with the charity Crimestoppers, highlights what constitutes electoral fraud, and aims to empower people to protect their vote and report any concerns to Crimestoppers 100% anonymously.

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Reminder of consultation on new performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers

Reminder of and a link to the Commission's consultation, which closes on 31 March.

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

Reminder of consultation on new performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers

As set out in [Bulletin 272](#), on 22 January we launched [a consultation](#) on new performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers.

Our intention is to establish a set of standards which can be used by EROs and the Commission throughout the year (including in the lead-up to electoral events), to understand and improve performance, ensuring ultimately that electoral registers are as accurate and complete as possible and that everyone who is eligible and wants to vote is able to do so.

The consultation closes on **31 March** and we want to hear from as many people as possible. You can respond by filling in [this form](#) or emailing your views to

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