

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 277 (England) – 24 March 2020

Contents

Postponement of polls

Information about the Coronavirus Bill, which makes provision in relation to the postponement of the scheduled May 2020 polls and by-elections.

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 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>)

Postponement of polls

Following the announcement that the scheduled elections due to take place in England and Wales on 7 May 2020 are to be postponed to May 2021, the UK Government have included provisions within the [Coronavirus Bill](#) which will give effect to this.

The legislation also includes provisions in relation to the postponement of by-elections.

The Bill is being debated in Westminster this week. Once it has completed its legislative process, we expect secondary legislation to be brought forward to provide more detail on how the postponement of polls will operate in practice.

We will update you once the Bill has been made, and will share more information on the secondary legislation whenever it is available.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact your [local Commission team](#).

Electoral registration campaign

Further to the postponement of the 7 May 2020 elections, we will not be running our forthcoming registration campaign.

You won't be able to use the campaign resources that we recently shared as they are date-specific to the May elections, but you can use our partner toolkit all year round to promote voter registration, and we will be in touch again in due course with arrangements for the 2021 campaign.

Thank you for your efforts to support this year's campaign. We look forward to working with you again in the future.

Reminder of consultation on new performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers

As highlighted in [previous bulletins](#), 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.

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

We are grateful for the feedback we've received to date. If you haven't already provided your views, you can respond by filling in [this form](#) or by e-mailing your thoughts to performancestandardsinbox@electoralcommission.org.uk.

The consultation closes on **31 March**. If, however, you want to respond to the consultation but think you are going to be unable to meet this deadline, please contact us by e-mail to performancestandardsinbox@electoralcommission.org.uk.

.....

The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YZ
Tel England: 0333 103 1928
Textphone: 18001 020 7271 0500
infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
© The Electoral Commission 2020