

# electoral administration bulletin



Issue 279 (England) – 17 April 2020

## Electoral registration: guidance and support for the reformed annual canvass

In last week's Bulletin ([Bulletin 278](#)), we updated that Cabinet Office are currently reviewing a number of options in relation to the management of electoral registration in light of the coronavirus pandemic. In terms of the canvass, they have stated that they do not expect the options to include reverting to the pre-reform canvass and that EROs should therefore continue to prepare for the reformed annual canvass as best they can given the circumstances.

As a result, we undertook to update you this week on our work to support the reformed annual canvass, including on the publication of our new canvass guidance.

### Guidance

We have now published our [new core guidance for EROs to support the delivery of the reformed annual canvass](#).

The guidance has been developed in close consultation with colleagues across the electoral community, including the Cabinet Office, Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA), Scottish Assessors Association (SAA), Elections Registration and Referendums Working Group (ERRWG) and Welsh Electoral Practitioners Working Group (WEPWG). It reflects both the legal requirements for EROs and what we collectively believe EROs should expect of their staff in planning for and delivering the canvass in their area.

As we advised in [Bulletin 272](#), the canvass guidance has been published in our new web-based format which provides flexibility in how you access and navigate the guidance, whilst retaining features that we know are important to you, such as the ability to print hard copies of sections of the guidance. We have also made changes to the way that we present guidance to make it clearer and more succinct, whilst continuing to provide a full end-to-end guide for the delivery of the canvass.

We are also updating our supporting resources for EROs on the delivery of the canvass which will be published on a rolling basis by

The  
Electoral  
Commission

## Contents

### Electoral registration: guidance and support for the reformed annual canvass

Update on our work to support the reformed annual canvass, including a link to our new canvass guidance.

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.

the end of this month. We are also working on transitioning the rest of the suite of ERO guidance into the new format and aim for this to be published from the end of May 2020. In the meantime, this can all be accessed as usual in PDF format on our website.

We hope you find the new-style guidance intuitive to navigate and use, but to help support you in maximising the benefit of the new format we have produced a [Q&A document](#) that should answer any initial queries you may have. Should you require any further support, please contact your local Commission team who will be happy to help.

### **Voter materials**

Further to [Bulletin 272](#), we are on track to make available the three new canvass materials – Canvass Communication A, Canvass Communication B and Canvass form – this month.

All other materials, including updated Invitations to Register, special category elector materials and alternative formats, will be released as soon as possible after that. We still intend that the complete suite will be available by mid-May 2020.

We will confirm in future Bulletins when the various materials have been made available.

### **Performance standards**

Again as highlighted in [Bulletin 272](#), we have been carrying out [a consultation](#) on draft performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers.

We are grateful for the feedback we have received to date, whether by way of responses to the consultation or through discussions at AEA and SAA meetings. However, we understand that some of you who might have wanted to respond to the consultation have not been able to do so given the current circumstances.

Recognising this and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic more generally, we are now considering how we can review our approach to the performance standards work, balancing the importance of making the standards and supporting tools and templates available to support you to deliver this year's canvass while ensuring that we are also able to remain flexible to the current circumstances and to respond to any further feedback you may want to provide. We will keep you updated in future Bulletins as these plans develop.

.....  
The Electoral Commission  
3 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YZ  
Tel England: 0333 103 1928  
Textphone: 18001 020 7271 0500  
[infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk)  
[www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)

© The Electoral Commission 2020